Rant

The Legendary Fifth Rookies Group's version of Morita Masanori's Rookies can always be found at:

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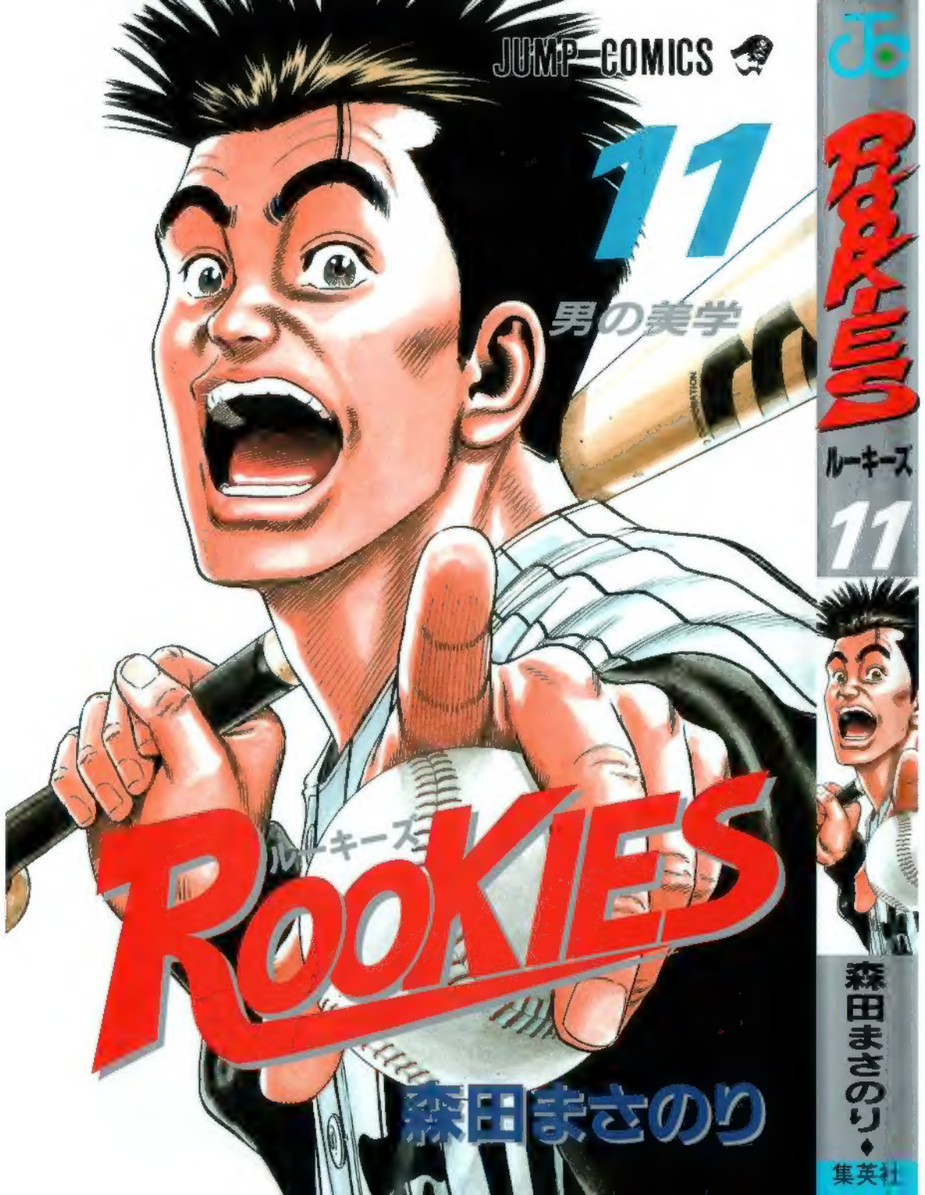
THIS MEANS "ONE RAW"

LEGENDARY FIFTH ROOKIES GROUP

MASANORI MORITA

Before drawing up a draft of each week's chapter, I have a meeting with my editor. These meetings have been fiery, lately. We get into huge arguments over the story progression and how to manipulate the characters. I really feel the desire in my editor to create a great manga, and I represent my own tastes faithfully. But when our opinions digress, I'm shocked to realize that all I care about is winning the argument. I'm a year older than him, but it makes me feel like a child.



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雑誌 43003－93

ジャンプ・コミックス

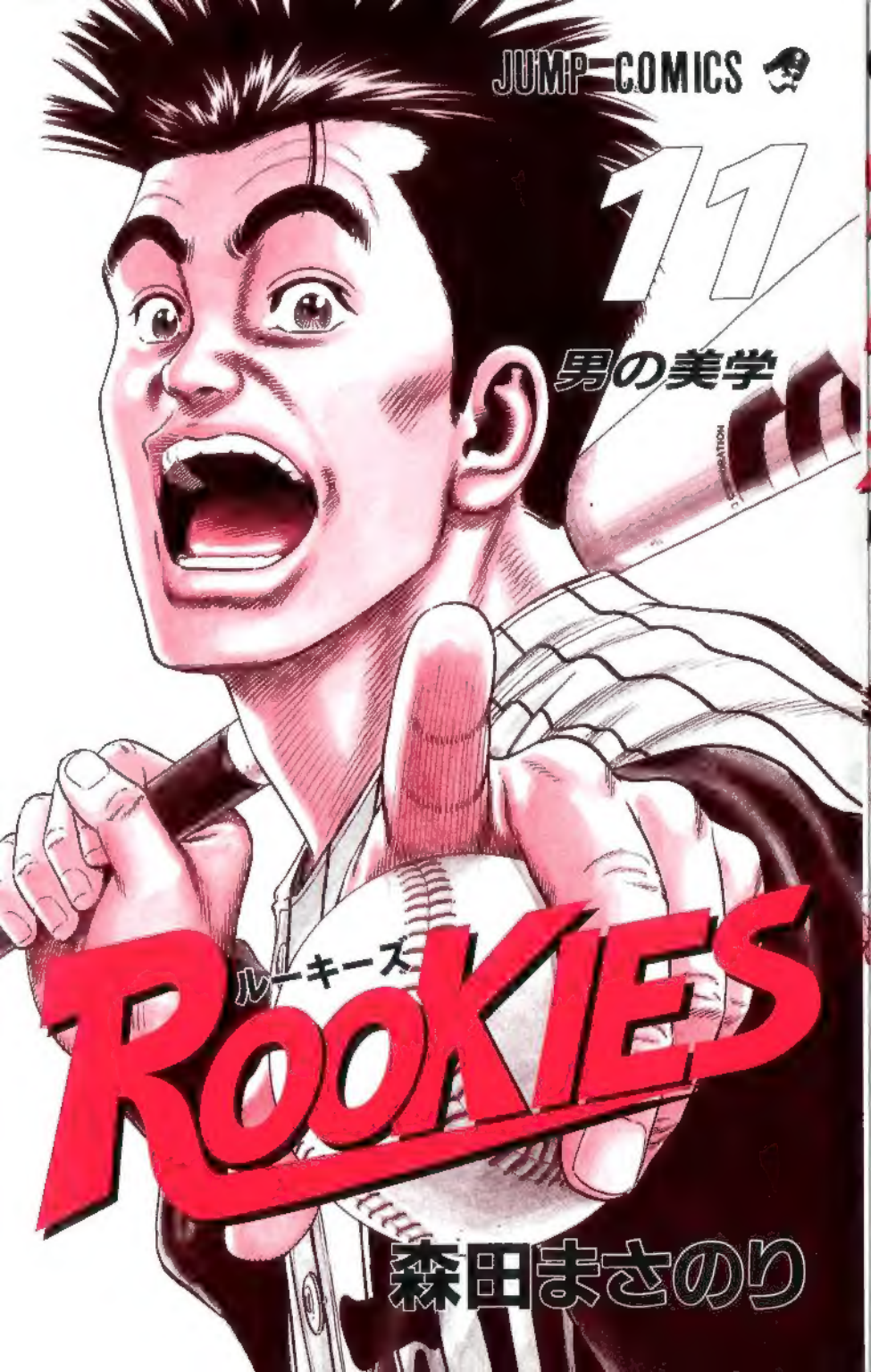
ほとんどのメンバーが野球を始めて3か月の二子玉川学園高校野球部。しかし、彼らの内に眠っていた才能は、確実にその片鱗を示し始めた。そして安仁屋もまた、投手として速球だけではない新たな可能性を見せつけ!?

ROOKIES

ジャンプコミックス

BASTARD!!	1～21	萩原一至
影武者徳川家康	1～6	隆慶一郎・原哲夫
SLAM DUNK	1～31	井上雄彦
ジョジョの奇妙な冒険	1～38	荒木飛呂彦
ジョジョの奇妙な冒険 Part6 ストーンオーシャン	1～2	荒木飛呂彦
NINKU —忍空—	1～9	桐山光侍
ONE PIECE	1～14	尾田栄一郎
シャーマンキング	1～9	武井宏之
封神演義	1～20	藤崎竜
遊☆戯☆王	1～19	高橋和希
世紀末リーダー伝たけし!	1～15	島袋光年
人形草紙あやつり左近	1～4	写楽麿・小畑健
ヒカルの碁	1～8	ほったゆみ・小畑健
MIND ASSASSIN	1～5	かずはじめり
ROOKIES	1～11	森田まさのり
HUNTER×HUNTER	1～9	冨樫義博
ホイッスル!	1～12	樋口大輔
ライジング インパクト	1～7	鈴木央
テニスの王子様	1～4	許斐剛
ZOMBIEPOWDER.	1～4	久保帯人
NARUTO-ナルト-	1～3	岸本斉史
Romancers	1～2	浅美裕子・人
無頼男 ブレーメン	1～2	梅澤春人
ライバル 番外編	1～2	柴山
I'll ～アイル～	1～3	浅田弘幸
わたるがぴゅん!	1～19	なかいま強
ダブル・ハード	1～21	今野直樹
宇強の大空	1～12	桐研吾・岡村賢二
つきあってよ!五月ちゃん	1～5	林崎文博
ドリームメイカーズ列伝	1～2	金井たかふみ
Mr.Clice(ミスタークリス) Part 1～2		秋本治
こちら葛飾区亀有公園前派出所	1～131	秋本治
鳥山明○作劇場	1～3	鳥山明
貯金戦士キャッシュマン	1	作画山室堂・中鶴勝祥
花さか天使テンテンくん	1～16	小栗かずまた
快傑蒸気探偵団	1～7	麻宮騎亜
風のシモン	1～2	坂口いく
GODAGUN	1～9	片倉・M・政憲
風飛び一斗	1～4	門馬もとき
グレイト稼走野郎AGAIN	1～5	三原進介司
明智将之介探偵社	1～2	小川浩
OH♥パンタクBOY	1～2	みやすのんき
召喚戦記サモンナイト	1	真琴・真鍋智
ガンリュウ	1	山根和俊・手塚治虫
手塚治虫THE BEST	1～10	
ハガキ戦士ジャンプ団	1～3	

★各巻とも好評発売中!!



ROOKIES
ルーキーズ
11
森田まさのり
集英社

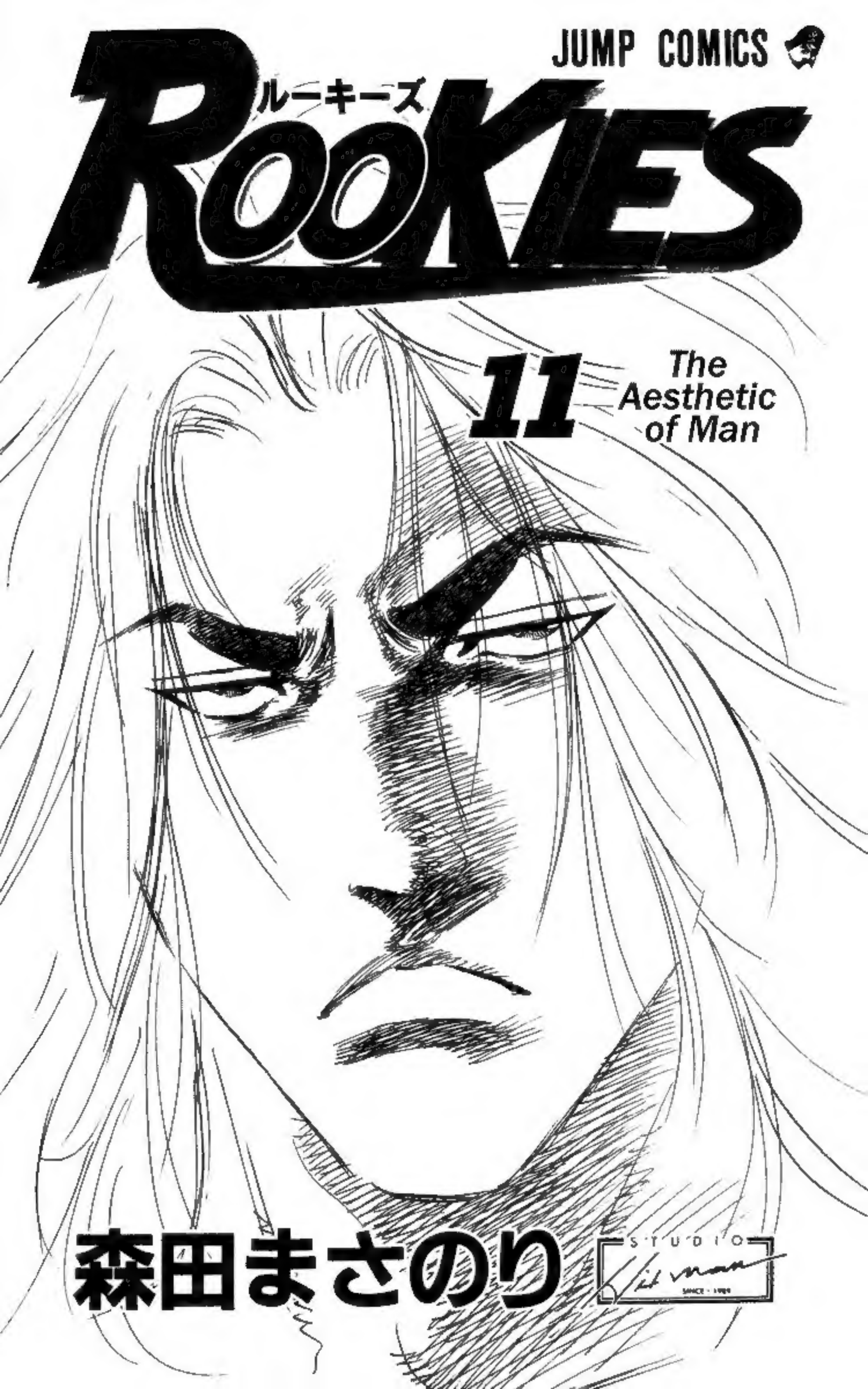
ジャンプ・コミックス

集英社

JUMP COMICS

ROOKIES
ルーキーズ

11 The Aesthetic of Man



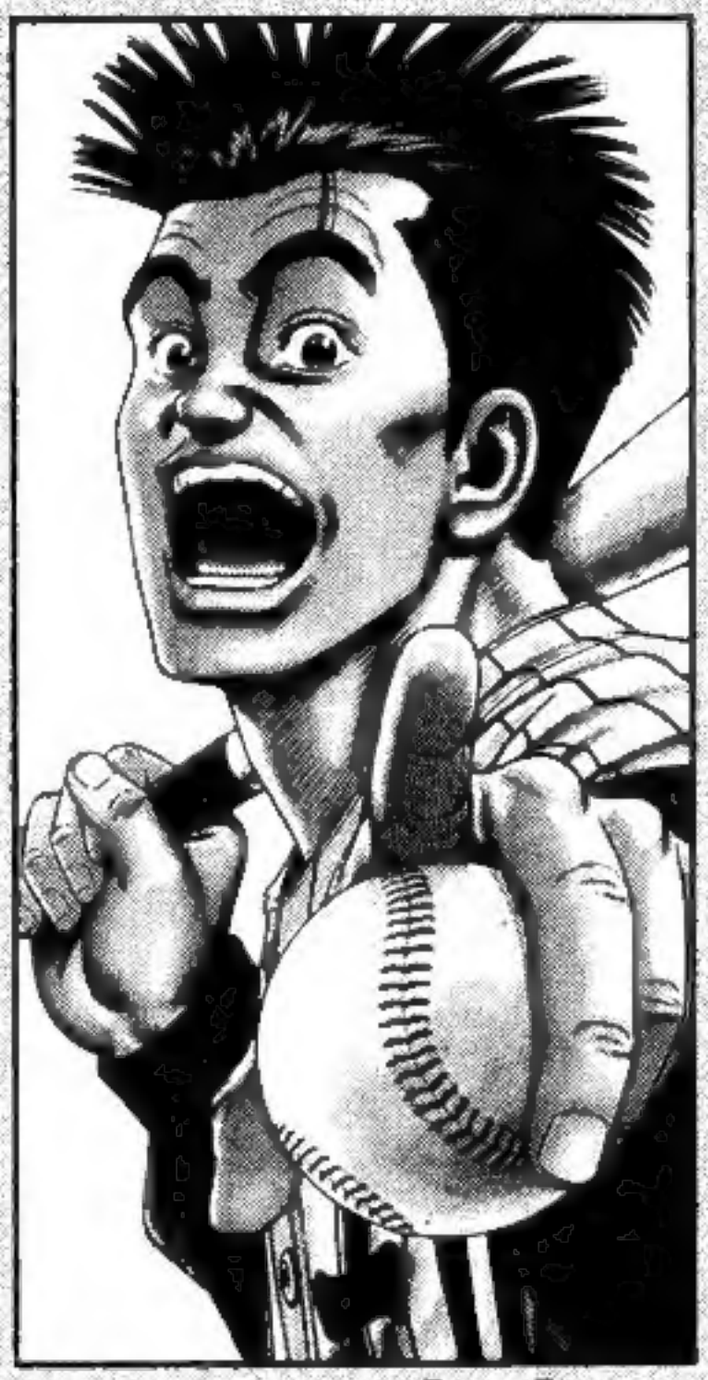
森田まさのり

STUDIO Lil man SINCE・1994

Cast of Characters

WAKANA
若菜

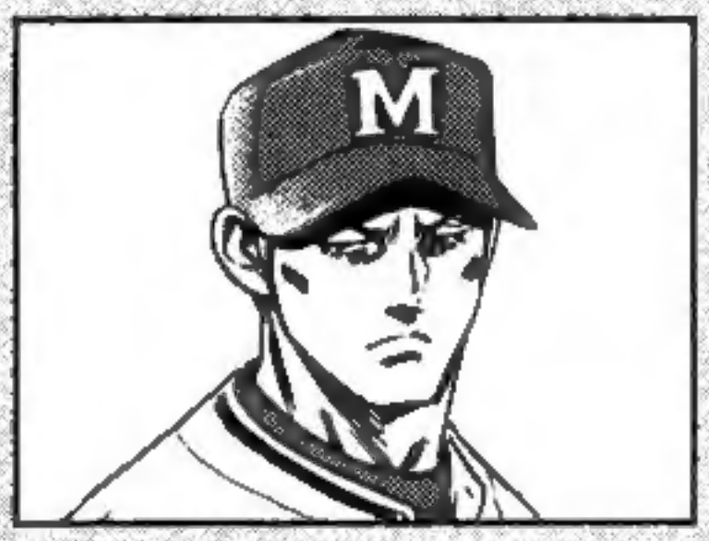
ANIYA
安仁屋



KAWATŌ KŌICHI
川藤幸一

HIYAMA
檜山

SHINJYŌ
新庄



ENATSU
江夏

IMAOKA
今岡

MIKOSHIBA
御子柴

ROOKIES ルーキーズ

— 11 —

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The Aesthetic of Man

LEGENDARY 5th Rookies SINCE・2008 GROUP

STUDIO Kitman SINCE・1989

Vol.96 Mikoshiba's Anxiety

ROOKIES

115M

115M

T-THERE IT GOES...

WOW, THAT THING JUST *SHOT* OUT OF HERE...

.....

NNG...

.....

.....
SHIT
H"
H"!

...I KNEW IT...

...WAY OUT OF OUR LEAGUE ...

THESE GUYS ARE ALL...

KONO, FROM HIROOKA NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WHAT DID I DO WRONG?

HEY, DAMMIT! ANIYA!

I SAW YOU SMILING! WHY THE HELL ARE YOU STOKED ABOUT GETTING BLASTED ?!

I'LL BLAST YOU IN THE ASS, BITCH!

KEI.

HMM?

WH

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY ?!

.....

.....

.....

.....

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M FUCKIN' AROUND OUT HERE

THE GUY BEFORE HIM SMOKED THE BALL TOO. PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN A HIT.

SHUT UP.

SO?! NORMALLY, YOU'D BE PISSED OFF ABOUT ALLOWING A HOME RUN LIKE THAT.

THAT WAS 140 METERS.

NO, I'D SAY 150.

IN A KOSHIEN-LEVEL SUPER-BATTLE!

IT MEANS THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET *SUFFOCATED* BY ME.

THESE GUYS ARE FOR REAL, MAN.

I KNEW THESE GUYS WERE GOOD I RECOGNIZE MOST OF 'EM FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.

I DON'T KNOW!

HEH HEH HEH, SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

HEH.

AWE . ?

AIN'T THAT AWESOME?

.....

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT IF I SPLIT A FINGERNAIL OR BUST MY SHOULDER. I'M GONNA BEAT THESE GUYS.

LOOK, I KNOW THESE GUYS AIN'T GONNA JUST GET THEMSELVES OUT.

WHATEVER! I'M 'BOUT TO SHOW THEM HOW YOU HIT A BALL OUTTA THE PARK!

SHUT YOUR DAMN MOUTH! IT'S MY BAT THAT'S GONNA KILL 'EM!

AAAAH! SHUT UP!

JUST SHUT UP AND LET 'EM HIT THE BALL OUT TO ME! RIGHT TO ME!

ALL RIGHT, THEN!

LET'S DO THIS!!

SHUT UP! DON'T BRING THAT SHIT UP!

AND I DON'T WANNA HEAR NO SHIT OUTTA YOU ABOUT YOUR ARM BEING NUMB OR WHAT-EVER.

HA HA HA! IT LOOKS LIKE THAT HOME RUN HAS GOTTEN THEM FIRED UP, INSTEAD!

W-WHAT WAS THAT. .?

HMM.

I JUST KNOW IT...

THEY MUST BE EXCITED THAT THEY'RE FINALLY PLAYING AGAINST SOMEONE WORTH-WHILE. .

TAKO-
NAGAWA
0
EGURO-
GAWA
15

I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN ...
THEY MIGHT BE PUNKS IN THE BASEBALL WORLD, BUT THEY'RE ALSO ELITES, WITH SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALL...
I KNEW WHAT THIS GAME WAS GOING TO ENTAIL...

ALL I CAN SEE ARE HOR-RIBLE IMAGES IN MY HEAD ...
I CAN'T DO THIS...

WE MIGHT GET BEATEN SO BADLY, WE'LL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN...

.....

AAH!

STRIIIKE!

NICE PITCH, ASS-HOLE!

ALL RIGHT, GUYS! THE BATTER'S SHAKIN' IN HIS SPIKES!

PUT HIM DOWN!

WHERE ARE THEY GETTING ALL THIS ENERGY?

W-WHAT'S GOING ON, GUYS?

HUH..?

HERE WE GO! I'M FEELIN' IT! A WIN BY A LAND-SLIDE!

STRIKE THREE! BATTER OUT!

TWO OUTS!

HELL YEAH!

.....

USHHH!

TWO OUTS ..

TWO OUTS

.....

.....

S
B
O

DO IT ONE MORE TIME!

PLAY BALL!

JUST PUT THAT BITCH DOWN!

YOU GUYS

CAPTAIN.

I DON'T HEAR YOU MAKIN' ANY NOISE,

HUH.

WHAT?

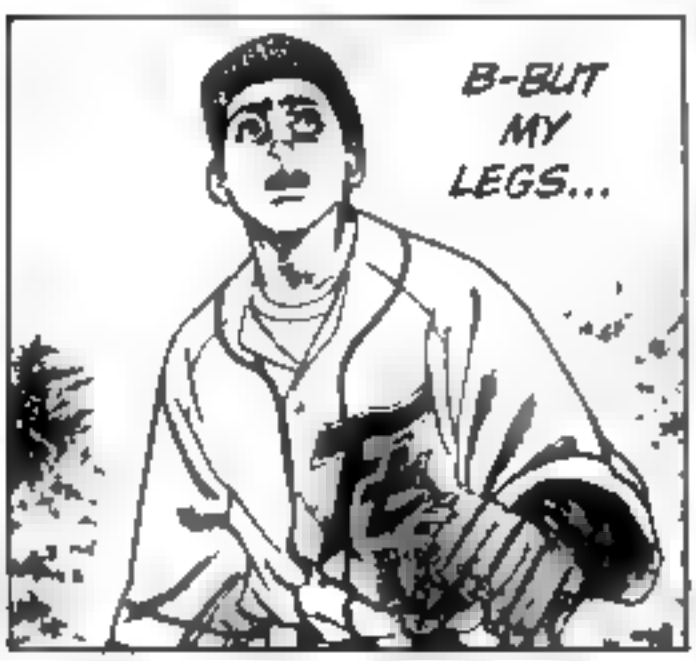
HEY!

UH...

SECOND!

ME
...?!

T-
THEY'RE
RIGHT...


B-BUT
MY
LEGS...

MY LEGS
WON'T
MOVE...!

I HAVE
TO KEEP
UP WITH
THEM...
I'M THE
CAPTAIN...
EVERYONE
ELSE IS
READY TO
PLAY...

I DON'T REMEMBER HOW TO CATCH A FLY BALL

MY MIND IS BLANK

MIKO-SHIBA-AAAA!

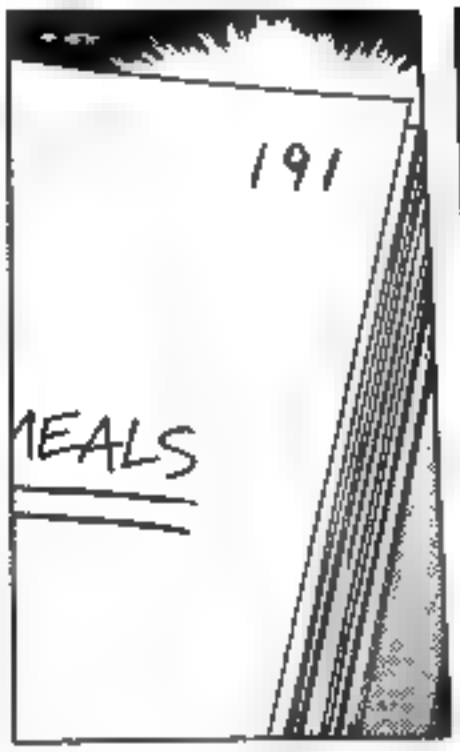
SOMEONE, HELP!

WHA ...?

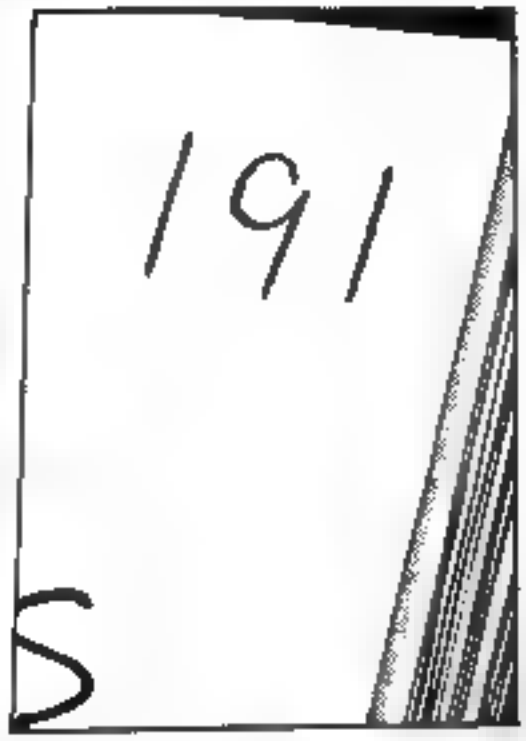
ONE-NINE-TY...

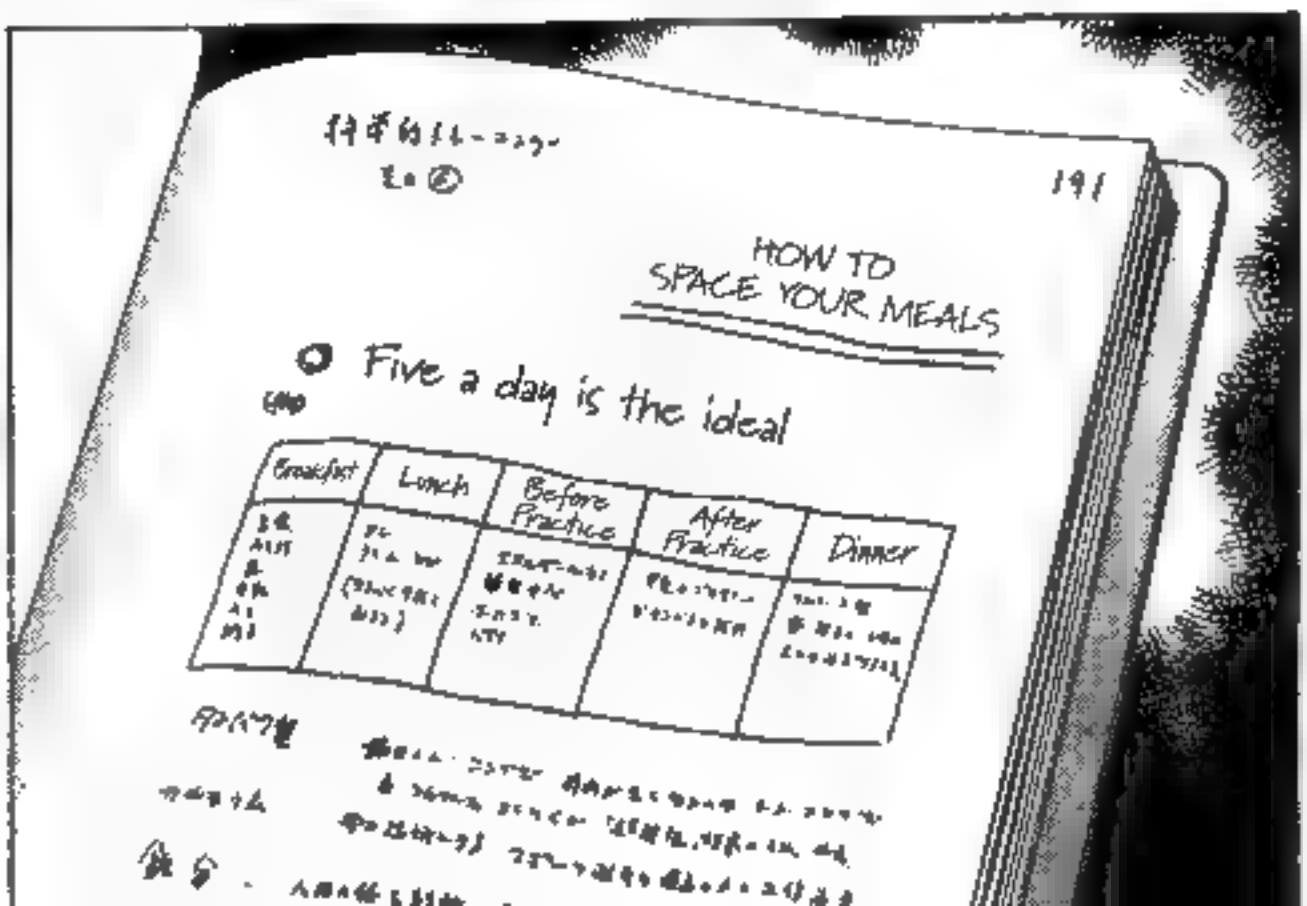
"HOW TO CATCH A FLY"!
PAGE 191 OF THE IKEBE MANUAL!

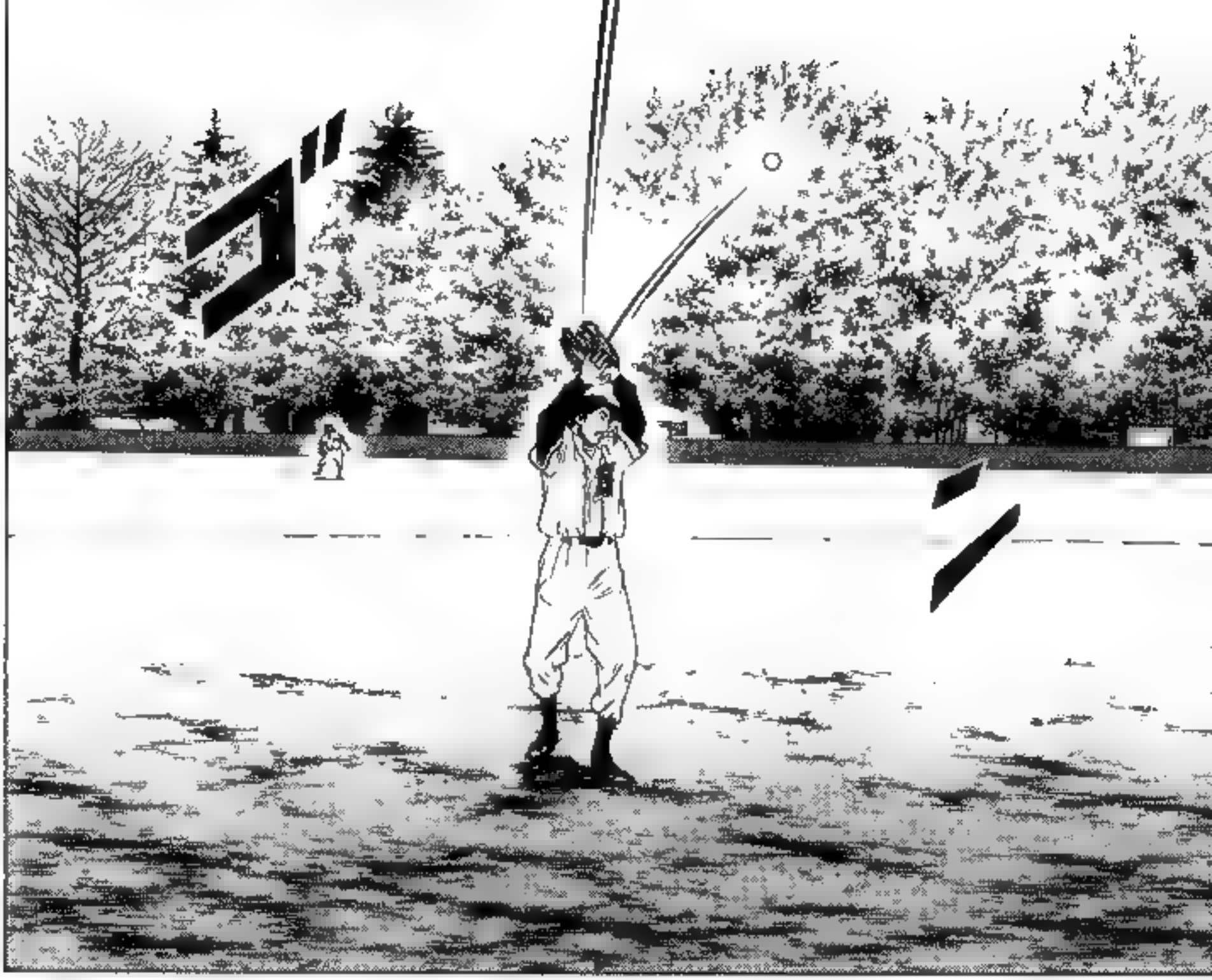
THAT'S NOT...


191
MEALS

191


191
S


191
HOW TO SPACE YOUR MEALS
Five a day is the ideal
Breakfast
Lunch
Before Practice
After Practice
Dinner



I... I CAN'T ...

AAAAH, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING ?!

UNGGI

AAAGH!

GET IT, MIKOSHI-BAAAAA!

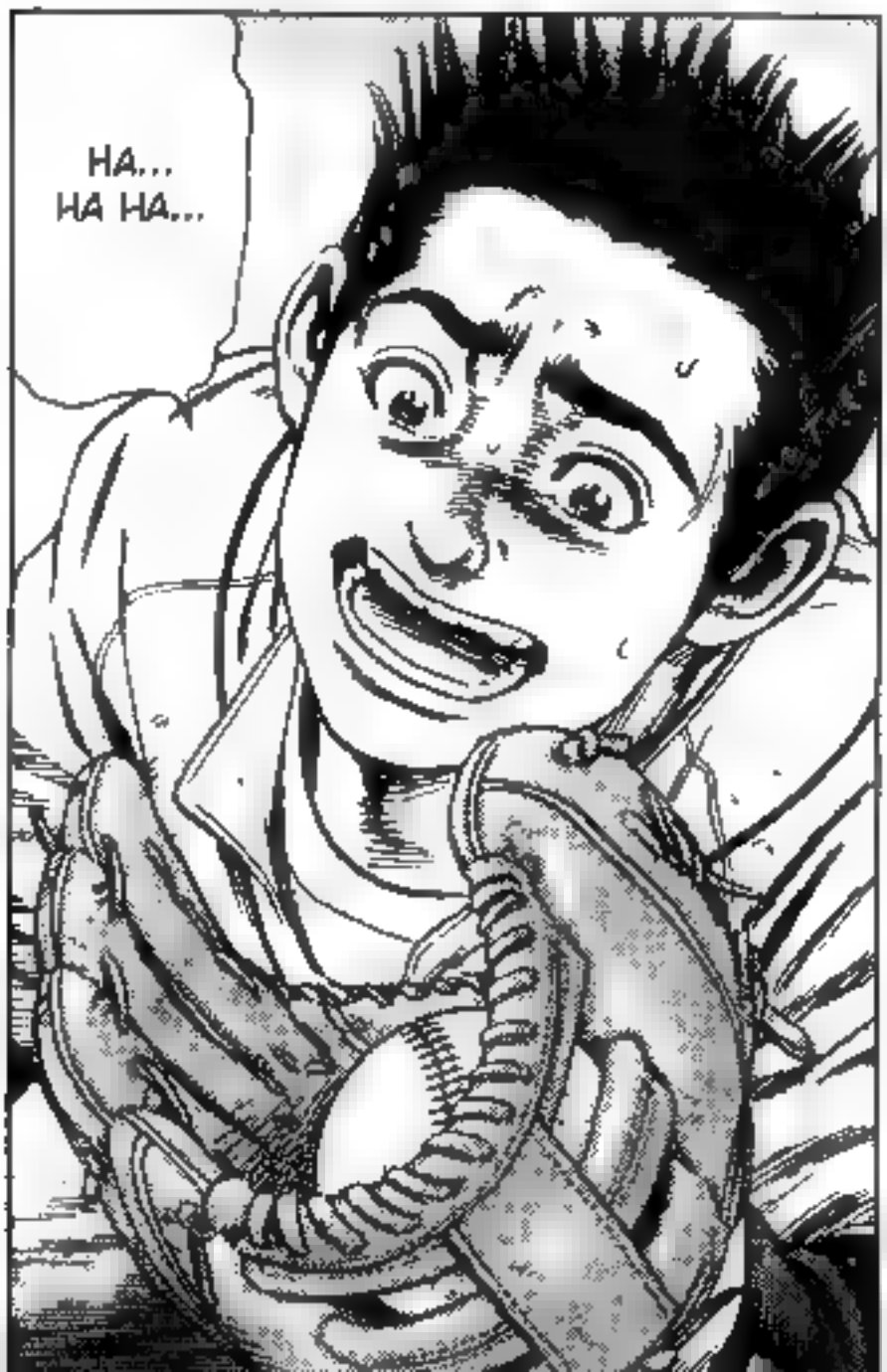
!

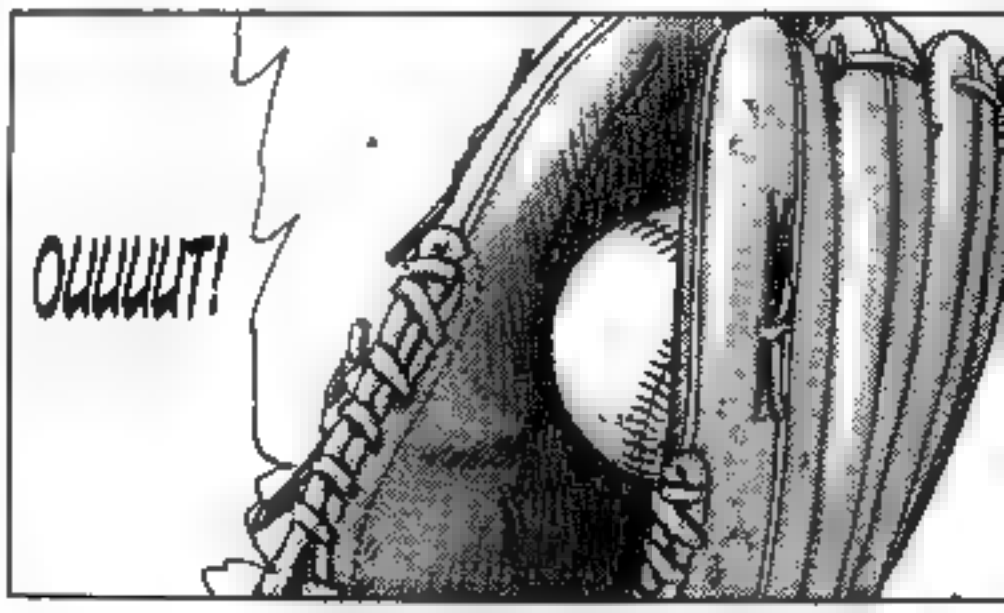
.....

WHAAAAAT?!

NO, HOW TO CATCH A FLY IS PAGE 91!

1


HA...
HA HA...


OUUUUT!

Vol.97 Premonition

IS THIS COMEDY, OR BASE-BALL?!

NERVOUS? I'LL MAKE YOU NERVOUS!

AAGH!

JUST CATCH THE BALL!

GEEZ, GUYS, WAY TO MAKE THINGS HARD!

HA HA HA, I WAS A BIT NERVOUS.

I, UH...

DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU WEREN'T WORRYING TO BEGIN WITH.

WELL, WE GOT THE OUT, SO THERE'S NO USE WORRYING AHA HA HA!

I GUESS THIS STUFF CAN EVEN HAPPEN TO MIKO-SHIBA.

GO OUT AND ATTACK, ME!

NO-BODY'S AFRAID OF 'EM!

YOU'RE JUST TALKING TO YOUR-SELF!

DON'T BE AFRAID OF THESE GUYS! GO OUT AND ATTACK!

ALL RIGHT, WE HELD THEM TO ONE!

BWAHAHA! SERVES YOU RIGHT! SUFFER, YOU FOOL!

WHAT, DID YOU JUST DRINK THAT, TOO?!

HIRA-CCHI!

GOD, WHAT AN IDIOT!

HEH

GYAHA-HAHA, YOU REALLY ARE A COME-DIAN!

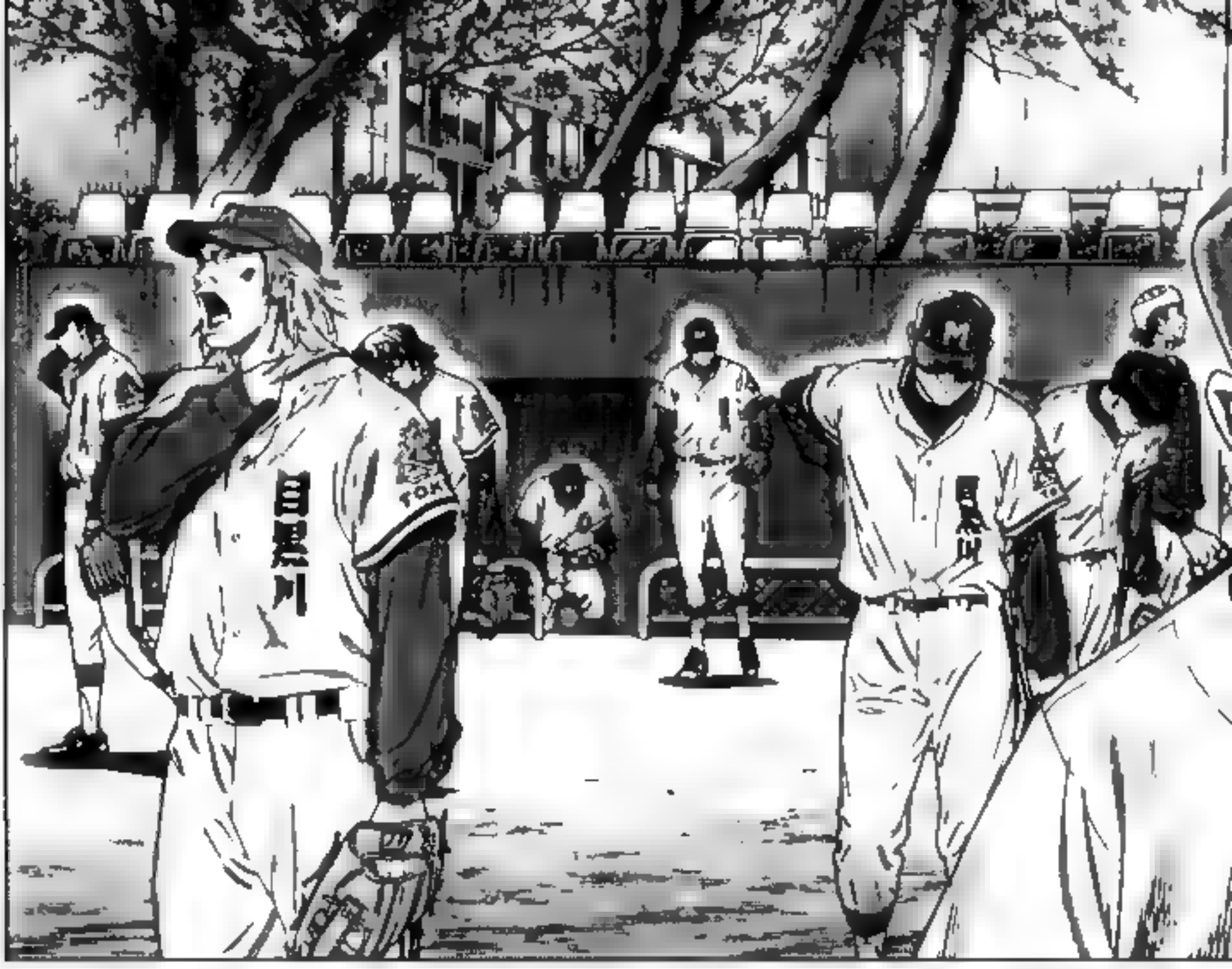
BSSHT!

AND IT'S DEAD QUIET, OVER THERE.

SHEESH EVERY-THING'S A GAME TO THEM.

NOBODY SAID A WORD, EVEN WHEN HE HIT THE HOMER.

YEAH.


日黒川

YOU WERE LIKE THAT, TOO.
HEH!
DON'T REMIND ME.

AH

WHO KNOWS WHAT THE HELL THEY'RE THINKIN'?

HE STILL KNOWS ALL OF US FROM WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER.

I BET ENATSU'S GETTIN' ALL WEIRDED OUT, INSIDE HIS HEAD

HEH AND HERE WE ARE, PLAYING HIM IN BASEBALL

I BET HE'S FEELIN' ANGRY.

AND THAT'S A STAR-PACKED LINE-UP THEY GOT.

LET'S GO SEE FOR OUR-SELVES

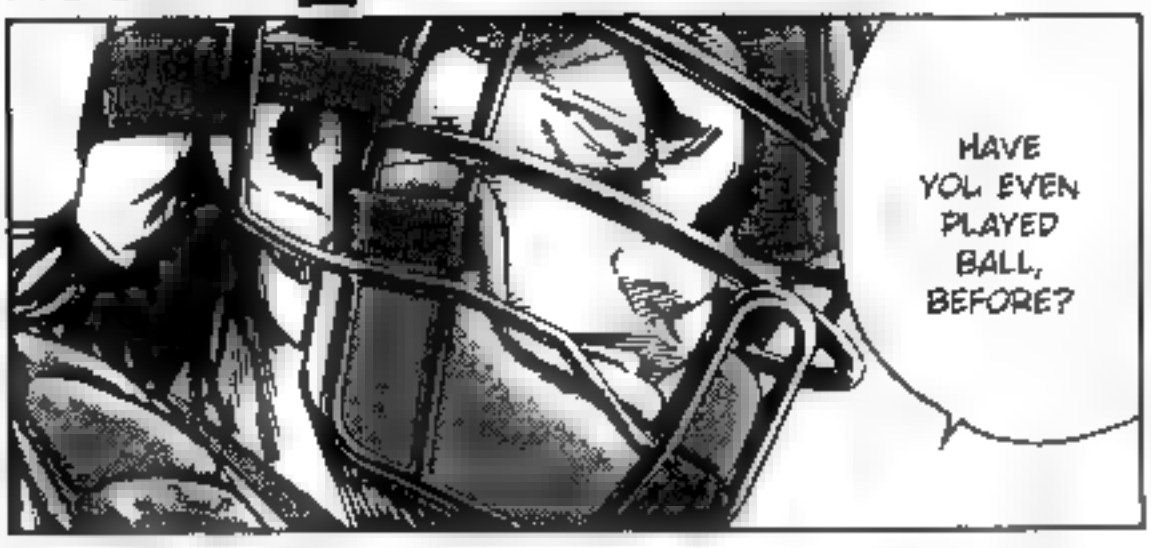
1-0, CLOSE GAME, RIGHT FROM THE START

GET YOUR ASS ON BASE!

ALL RIGHT, OKADA! LET'S GET A RALLY GOING!

OKA-DAAAAA!

PLAY BALL!


HAVE YOU EVEN PLAYED BALL, BEFORE?

FOR THREE MONTHS.
YEAH I HAVE.

BALL!

HEH.

WHOA. HE BOUNCED THAT ONE.
REALLY?

MY HAND SLIPPED, IS ALL.

MAN, QUIT EMBAR-RASSIN' YOURSELF AGAINST THIS KID.

SHUT UP.

STRIIIIKE!

YOU, TOO!

BWA-HAHA. LOOK AT HIM, GETTING YELLED AT.

AND YOU'RE SITTING ON A CUSH-ION!

HMM?

WHAT?

STOP SITTING DOWN!

WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE IS THAT?

YOU WERE LIKE, "WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT BASE-BALL?"

IT'S FUN AS HELL.

THEN I APOLO-GIZE

WHAT?

DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING ONCE, OKADA?

WE GOT IN A FIGHT ONCE, IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

BALL!

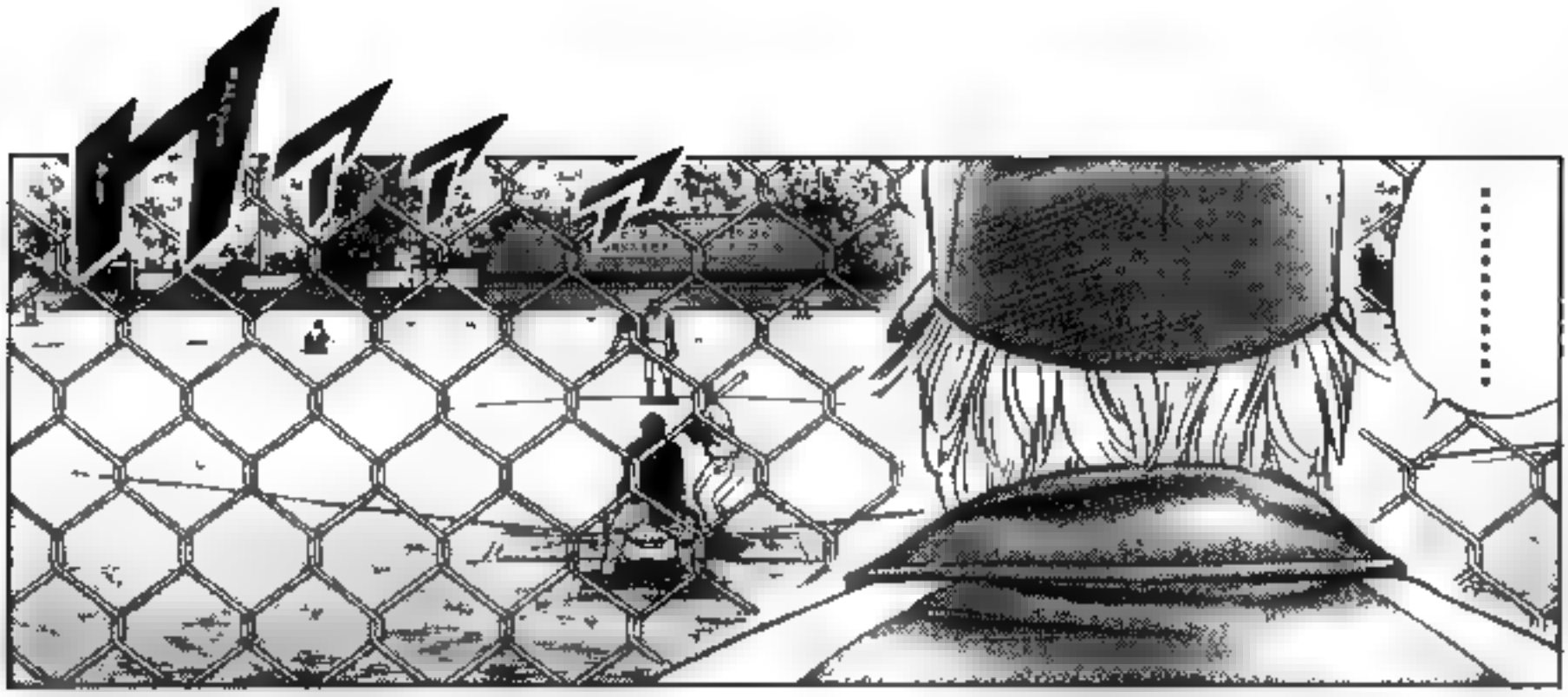
MAN, WAY TO WORK THE COUNT!

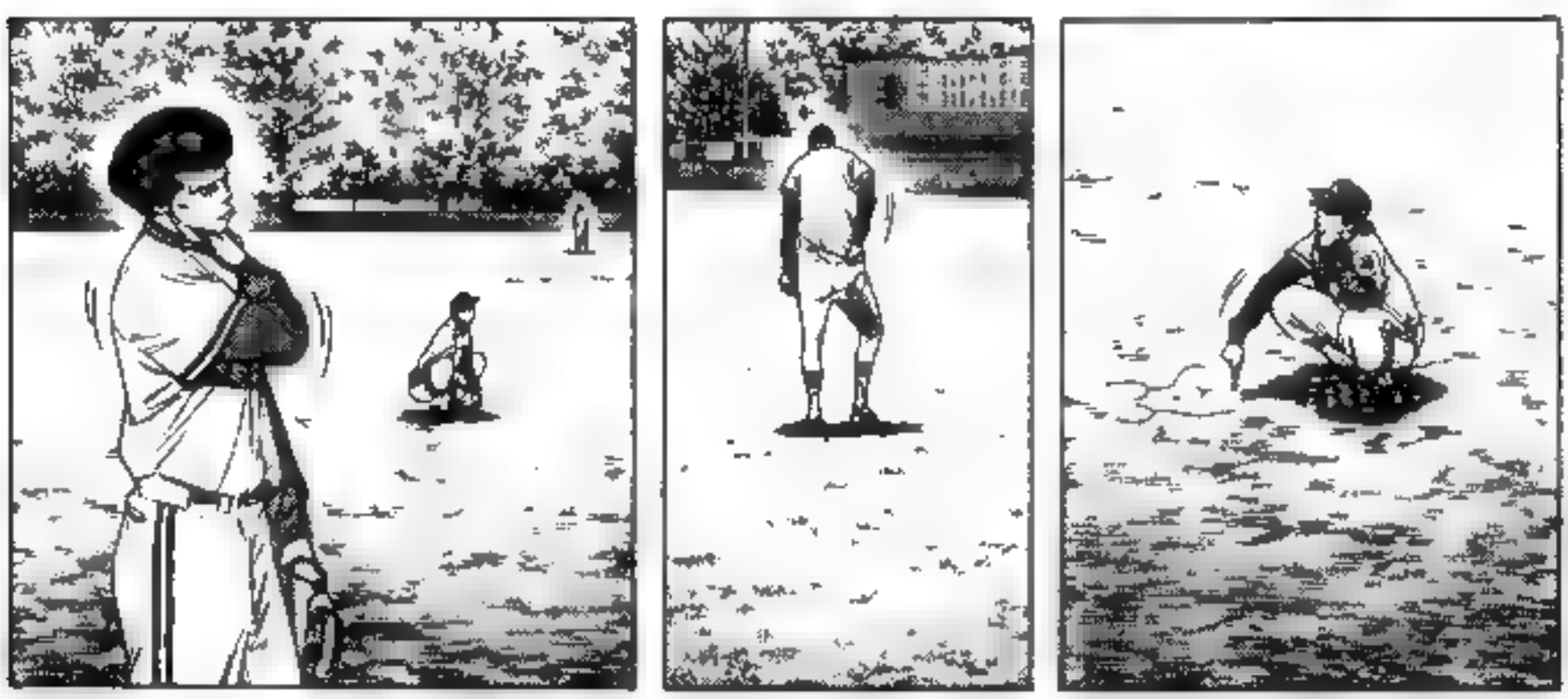
F-FULL COUNT, 3-2!

I DUNNO... THIS FEELS DIFFERENT THAN LAST INNING!

S
B
O

WHOA!





GOOOO!

KONO.
YOU STILL HAVING FUN?

EVEN NOW?

ptu

STRIKE THREEE!

BATTER OUT!

NICE AT-BAT! WAY TO HANG IN THERE!

AWWW, DAMN!

.....

SHIT.

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A BALL.

HELLS YEAH, MY TURN!

HMM.

GOT IT?! SHARP AND QUICK, LIKE ZIP! ZIP! ZIP!

ON A FASTBALL, JUST CHOKE UP AND SWING COMPACT!

GIP

ギュ！

CHOKE UP ON THE BAT, YUFUNE!

.....

SWING FOR CON-TACT!

DON'T USE SUCH A HUGE STANCE!

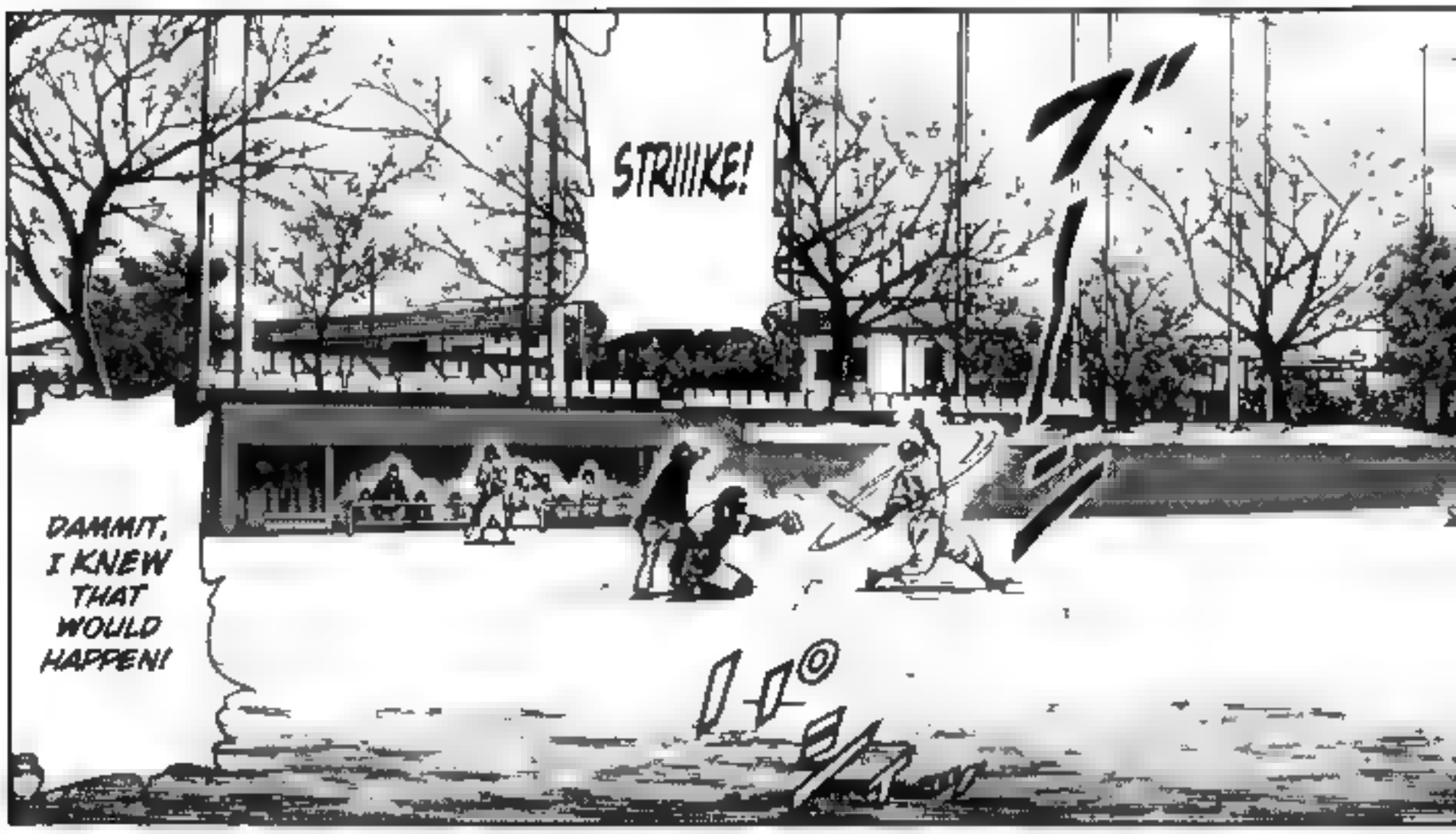
OH, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

HE MIGHT JUST

NO ENATSU MIGHT PITCH FAST... BUT HE MAKES OCCASIONAL MISTAKES.

LET ME SEE WHAT YOU GOT, ENATSU!!

NWUOO
OOOH!!


STRIIKE!
7"
11"
DAMMIT, I KNEW THAT WOULD HAPPEN!

3"

B-BUT THEN AGAIN, THIS IS JUST HIS STYLE..
WHAT ?

RUAAAAH!!

YES, HE'S NOT SWINGING LATE.

HIS TIMING IS ON.

IF HE MAKES CONTACT ...

STRIIIKE!

AAAGH!

STRIKE THREEEE!

AAAAAAGH!

BATTER OUT!

WUOHHH!

GOD-DAMMIT !!

.....

HE'S NOT BEING HIT, SO IT MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE.

IS HE PANICKING ?

ENATSU'S PISSED OFF.

WHOA, IMAOKA, WHEN DID YOU GET OUT THERE?

YOU CAN HIT THIS GUY!

PLAY BALL!

NOW IT'S IMAOKA.

KEH.

第110話

M

WHOAAA!

オオ!!

OUT!

THREE OUTS, CHANGE SIDES!

W-WHOAAA...

I CAN SEE POSSIBILITIES UNFOLDING..

Y-YES...

F

..ON THAT TOUGH PITCH..

H-HE MADE PERFECT CONTACT

T-THAT MEANS..

Vol.98 Megurogawa Baseball

YEAH THAT WAS PERFECT CONTACT
HE HIT THAT BALL STRAIGHT ON THE BEAMS

6

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE !!
7

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HOW...?

SPEAK! SPEAK, DAMN YOU!

HOW?! HOW DID YOU JUST DO THAT?!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU JUST DID, BOY?!

DON'T JUST TRY TO RUN OFF FOR THE FIELD WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING!

WE CAN SEE THE STRATEGY TO ATTACK ENATSU.

HAHA.. WHICH MEANS THIS.

S-SENSE

IT WAS JUST... AN EASY PITCH TO HIT

T-THAT WAS AFTER FIVE STRAIGHT STRIKE-OUTS..

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

THAT'S IT. HIT YOUR PITCH.

T-THAT'S IT...?

.....

THAT'S IT.

LOOK FOR YOUR PITCH, THAT'S IT.

HIT THE WEAK PITCHES, DON'T SWING AT THE BAD ONES

LOOK AT YUFUNE! HE'S LEARNING!

I... I SEE...

STOP REPEATING YOURSELF, MAN!

SHUT UP, WE KNOW WHAT IT MEANS!

IF IT LOOKS HITTABLE, HIT IT!

HIT YOUR...

ALSO, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS BALLS AND STRIKES WASN'T EVEN CLOSE.

LIKE MIKOSHIBA JUST SAID, ENATSU THROWS FAST, BUT OCCASIONALLY RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE

BUT YOU CAN'T GET A HIT IF YOU DON'T SEE A HITTABLE PITCH

HUH?

NO, YOU'LL GET PITCHES.

YOU CAN SEE HOW THAT MIGHT IRRITATE HIM INTO THROWING WILD.

BUT INSTEAD, IT'S UNEXPECTEDLY CLOSE... AND HIS PLAN TO FREAK US OUT BACKFIRED.

YES ENATSU NEVER EXPECTED TO HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH US. HE ASSUMED HE WOULD BE WAY AHEAD, ALL THE WAY.

HE MUST BE FRUSTRATED

FRUSTRATED...?

YOU BET I WON'T!

HIS PITCHING IS WEAK DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE.

WE'VE GOT A CHANCE TO SNEAK OUR WAY IN.

HEH HEH HEH!

SO YOU'RE SAYING HE'S INEXPERI-ENCED.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO! WHO'S UP NEXT?!

I'M SAYING, HIT YOUR PITCH!

YES, OF COURSE!

OH, WE'RE FIELDING NOW!

LET'S GO, GUYS!

I KNEW THAT, NATU-RALLY!

SHUT 'EM DOWN!

I WAS TESTING YOU!

IDIOT.

SHUT UP. I SAID, DON'T GET SMACKED AROUND BY A TOTAL WUSS LIKE THAT GUY.

WHAT?!

YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THAT, BITCH!

...THE FUCK DID YOU JUST SAY?!

KEH.

HUH?!

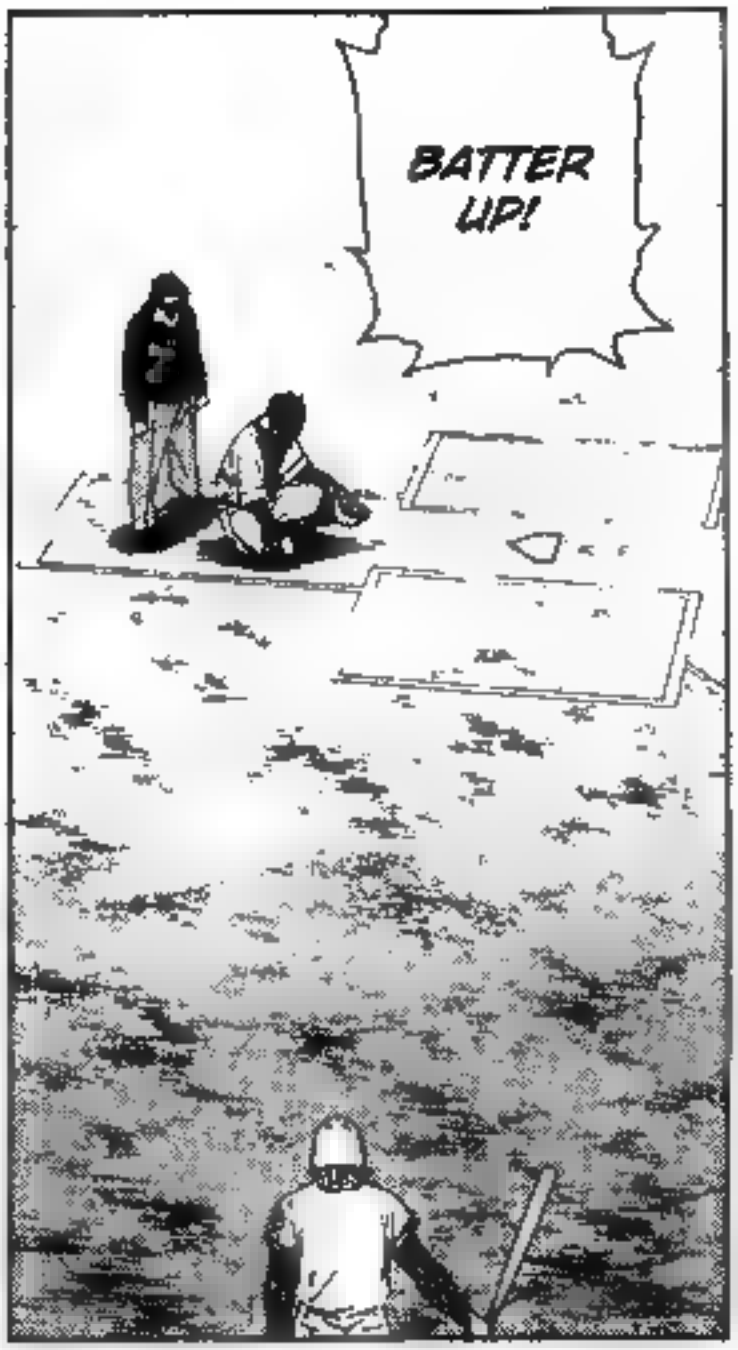
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU IDIOTS.

OHK

YOU'RE UP NEXT, AWAGUCHI.

PTU

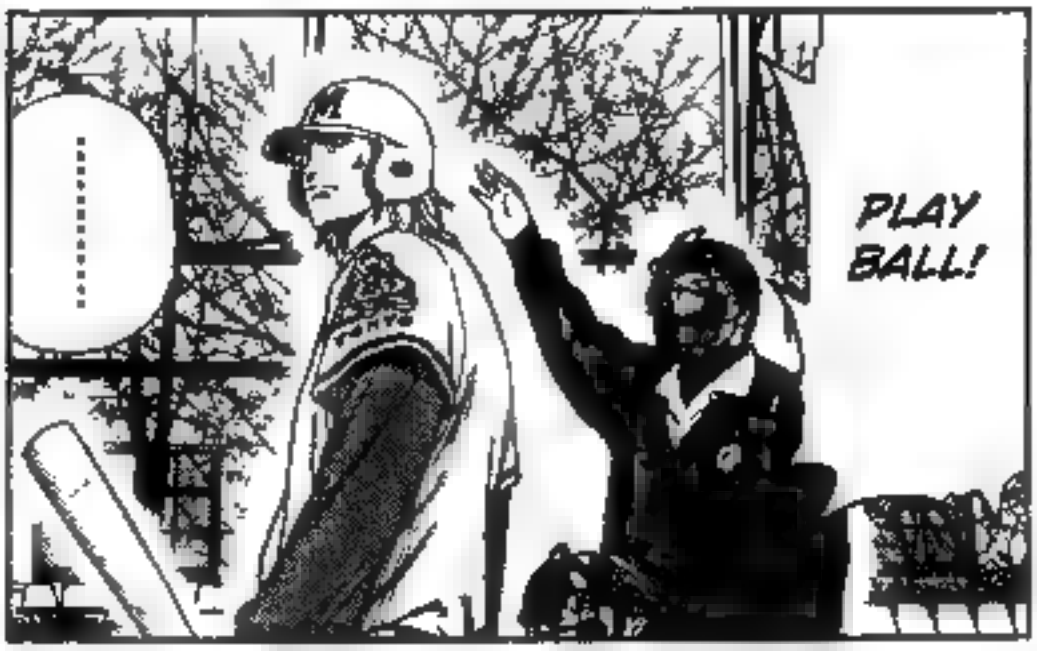
HMM?


BATTER UP!

THAT'S THE GUY FROM THE BATTING CAGES...

M
STUPID KID...

I'M GONNA GET HIM OUT, YOU MORON.
GO AHEAD, ANIYA, YOU CAN HIT THAT GUY!


.....
PLAY BALL!

YES, IT MATCHES WITH WHAT YOU SAW

WOW.. AWAGUCHI-KUN'S BATTING AVERAGE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS OVER .700.

I KNEW IT!

HE HAS GOOD BAT SPEED, AND PINPOINT CONTROL AT TIMES..

SO HE CAN HIT A PITCH WHEREVER HE WANTS

HE HAS GOOD BAT CONTROL,

M

AAGH!

FU!!!

!!

URRGH ...

WHAT ?!

HIYAMA!

WHOA!

WHA...

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

NO SHIT, IT WAS! YOU'RE GONNA GET IT!

INTER-FERENCE?! WHAT?!

OFFEN-SIVE INTER-FERENCE! YOU'RE OUT!

SHIT...
AAAGH, OWW...
HIYAMA!

!

HE DID THAT ALL ON PURPOSE ...
THAT ASS-HOLE...

N-NO. IN ORDER TO THROW THE BAT AT A FIELDER JUST AFTER SWINGING, IT WOULD...
H-HE DIDN'T DO THAT PURPOSE

HIYAMA-KUN!
HIYAMA! YOU ALL RIGHT?!

B-BUT THEN AGAIN, IF ANYONE WAS CAPABLE OF DOING IT...

.....!

KEH

DON'T COMPLAIN TO ME, THAT'S JUST WHAT HE'S LIKE

YOU DIDN'T EXPECT US TO BE THIS GOOD, SO NOW YOU'RE SHOWING YOUR *REAL* STYLE

I SEE SO THIS IS *HOW* YOU PLAY, HUH?

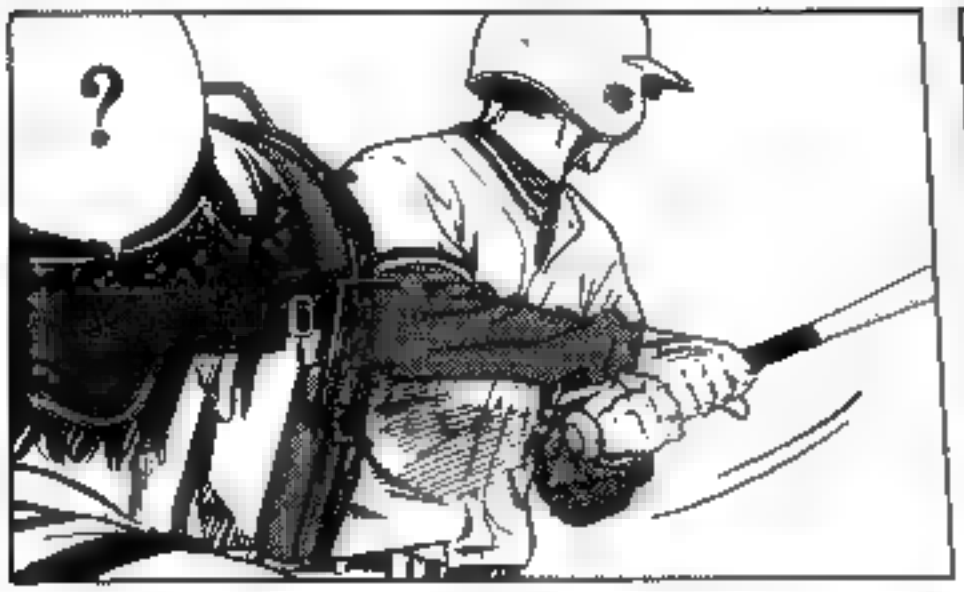
WHAT?!

.....

NEXT TIME YOU PULL THIS BULLSHIT, SOMEONE'S GONNA DIE

GOD-
DAM-
MIT

PLAY
BALL!
6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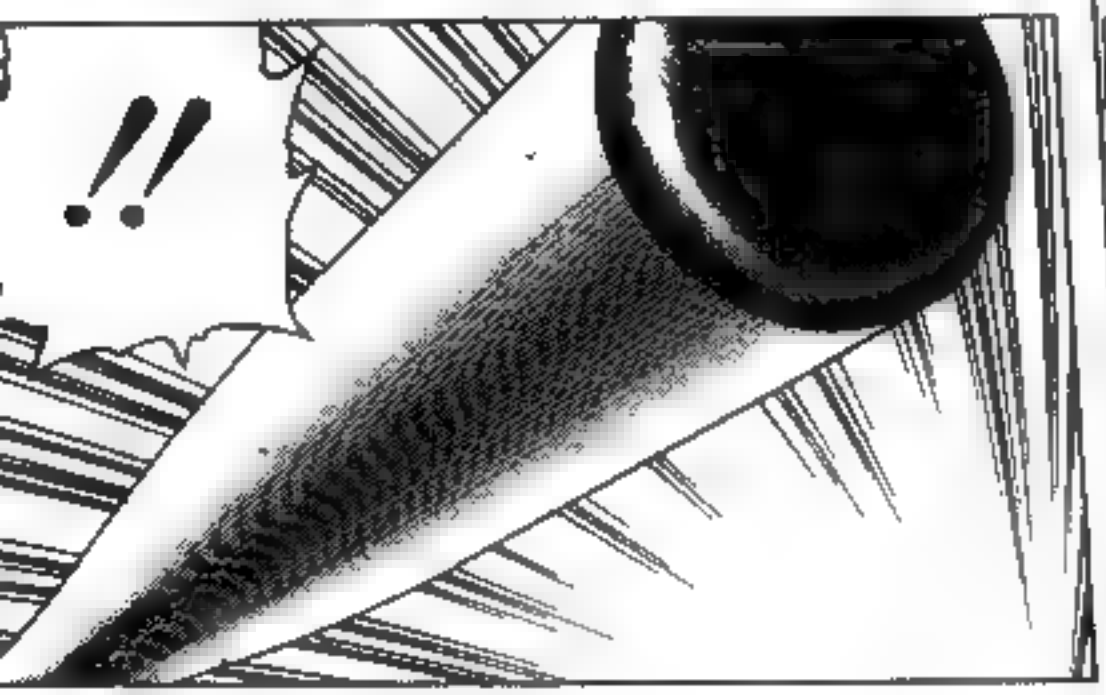

!!

WHOA!

D-DAMN! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!

WAKANA!

IN FACT, IF HE'D MADE CONTACT, THAT COULD HAVE BEEN CALLED CATCHER'S INTERFERENCE.

NO HE MANAGED TO JUST MAKE IT LEGAL..

HEY, THAT WAS SOME DIRTY SHIT! THAT'S A FOUL, DUDE!

HMM..

WHAT THE FUCK!!

WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU WANT ?!

DEEP BREATHS! DEEP BREATHS !!

WA-KA-NAAAAA!

NO.. DON'T DO IT!

AAAAH!

STOP THAT! I'LL CALL OFF THE ENTIRE GAME!!

.....

KKH...

.....

.....

6

.....

WHEWWW-WWWWW

WHOA.

...KKH...

THIS NAKAHATA-KUN IS AN INCREDIBLE BATTER TOO, THOUGH.

HE'S RIGHT, THOUGH THAT WAS SOME VERY DIRTY PLAYING.

SIGH..

IT'S LIKE.. EVERY PERSON ON THIS TEAM IS SOME INCREDIBLE TALENT .

HE HIT FOR A LOT OF POWER AT MINAMIMURA MIDDLE SCHOOL, AS THEIR CLEAN-UP HITTER.

A GENIUS, NATURAL-BORN PULL-HITTER.

IT SAYS HE COULD PULL ANY FASTBALL.

OH..

OHHH...

RIGHT DOWN THE THIRD BASE LINE..

HE PULLED ANIYA'S FASTBALL ...

THEY'RE DOING MORE DAMAGE THROUGH SKILL THAN LUCK.

...IS MORE THAN JUST ROUGH ..

SO IT SEEMS THEIR BASE-BALL...

Vol.99 Trick Pitch

Sign: Kawato

MMM. THEY MIGHT PLAY DIRTY, BUT MEGUROGAWA HAS SKILL

A DOUBLE

YOU LIKE TO PULL A LOTTA BULLSHIT, DON'T YOU?

WHAT?

PLAY BALL!

NOOOO! STOP THAT!

THE HELL, MAN. . ALL THESE GUYS CAN HIT

FUCK THIS.

MY 160 KM/H FAST-BALL!

YOU AIN'T GONNA HIT...

ガシャ

HIS VELOCITY IS ABSOLUTELY TOP-NOTCH FOR A HIGH SCHOOL PITCHER.

ANIYA'S GOT A FIRST-RATE FASTBALL, THAT'S FOR SURE.

YES. . THAT COULD HAVE BEEN 145 KM/H OR MORE. .

T-THAT ONE WAS FAST..

IF THEY CAN MEET HIS FASTBALL THIS EASILY THE FIRST TIME THROUGH THE ORDER...

THIS IS MEGUROGAWA... YOU CAN'T HOLD THEM DOWN WITH JUST ONE PITCH...

BUT THAT'S MADE HIM CARELESS...

WHY DIDN'T I HAVE ANIYA LEARN A BREAKING BALL, BY FORCE IF NEED BE. .?

I WAS FOOLISH...

.....

HIYA-MA!

THE RUNNER'S ON THE MOVE!

SHIT, I CAN'T SEE!

!

HYAHA!

DAAH!

MOVE IT!

NO, THROW THE BALL!

!?

DON'T CHASE AFTER HIM, HIYAMA!

FUCK!

DAMN!

THIRD BASE!

YOU CAN PICK HIM OFF!

HE'S TRYING TO RUN HIM DOWN..?

N-NO, I THINK HE WANTS TO..

I'M GONNA GET YOU, BITCH!

W-
WHAT
THE
HELL,
MAN?!
TO

SAFE
!!

TA-AAA-AG!!

WHAA-AA?!

NNG...

WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?!

KNOCK IT OFF! THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

I'M GONNA KILL YOU, RIGHT NOW!!

H. . HUH.. ?

YIKES . .

T-THOSE GUYS ARE ALL GONNA. .

IF YOU CAUSE ANY MORE PROBLEMS, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EJECT YOU OR CALL OFF THE GAME.

BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SLIDE, YOUR HEAD WAS THE CLOSEST TARGET FOR TAGGING. I'M RULING THAT A SAFE, LEGAL TAG.

AND I DIDN'T EVEN THROW THAT BAT AT HIM!

THAT WAS DIRTY, MAN! HE WAS TRYIN' TO GET ME BACK!

BAH.

.....

WHAT? DON'T MAKE SHIT UP.

HEH.

SHIT!

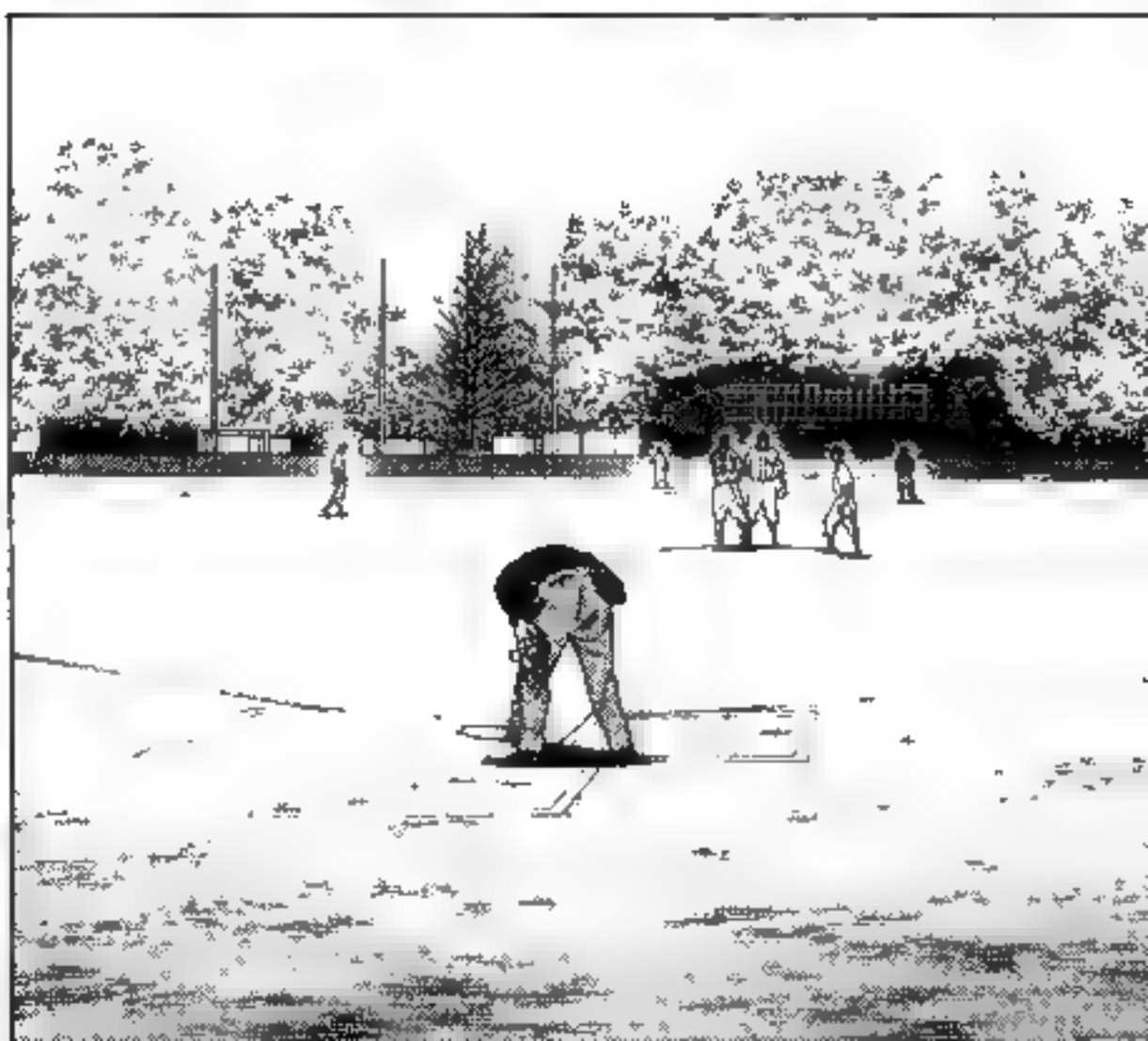
110

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE! NICE PLAY!
AAA

AND YOU'RE *HIGH-FIVING* EACH OTHER?

T-TH S IS BAD .. WE'RE LOSING CONCENTRATION. MUST DO SOMETHING ..
.....

MAN, THAT HAD ME IN A COLD SWEAT
NAH, THAT WAS GOOD. THAT NEEDED TO HAPPEN.



MAN, DON'T ACT LIKE I NEVER PLAYED THE GAME BEFORE.

YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM JUST WITH THE HEAT.

B-BUT...

YOU'VE GOT TO PUT WRINKLES ON THESE PITCHES SOMEHOW

Scoreboard: Futakotamagawa
Megurogawa

ONE OUT, FIRST AND THIRD. .

THEY'RE TIMING YOUR FASTBALL, ANIYA.

SIGHHHH.

TRY WHAT?!

I TOLD YOU YOU SHOULD HAVE STARTED OFF WITH IT.

START OFF WITH WHAT?!

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TRY IT.

OH WELL.

JUST SHUT UP AND WATCH.

I KNOW, MAN.

MAKE SURE YOU CATCH IT

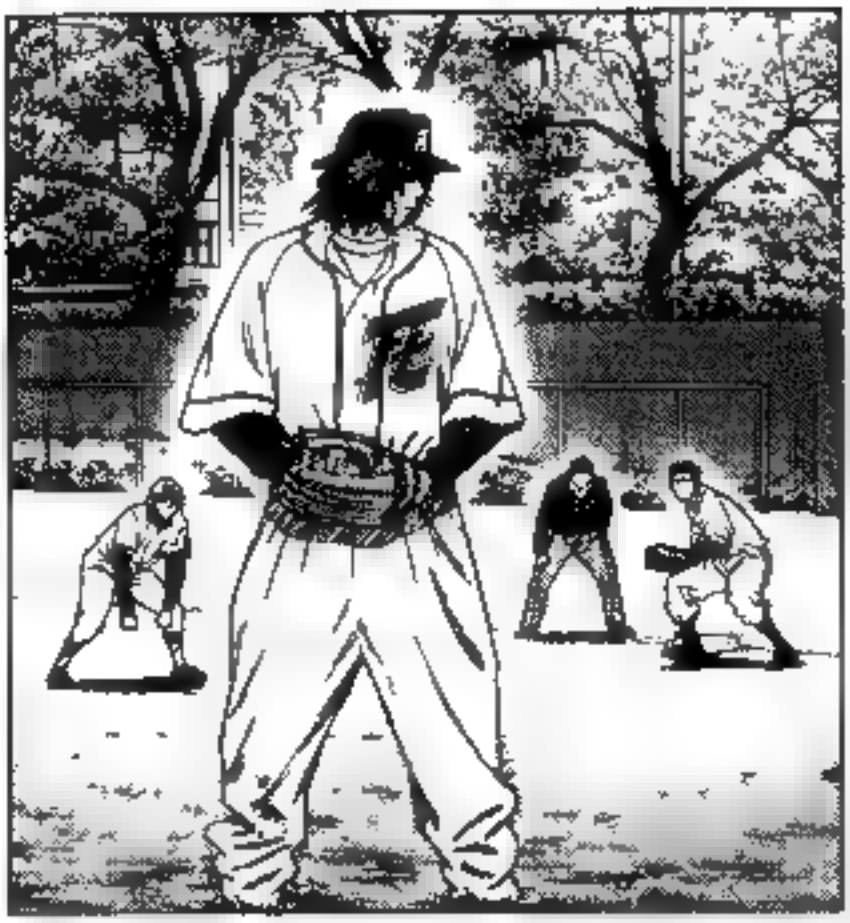
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?

.....

WHAT A BATTING ORDER..

MATSU-MOTO-KUN.. THE SLUGGER FROM SOEJIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL..

PLAY BALL!



RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE.

!

STRIIIKE !!

!

IT... CURVED...

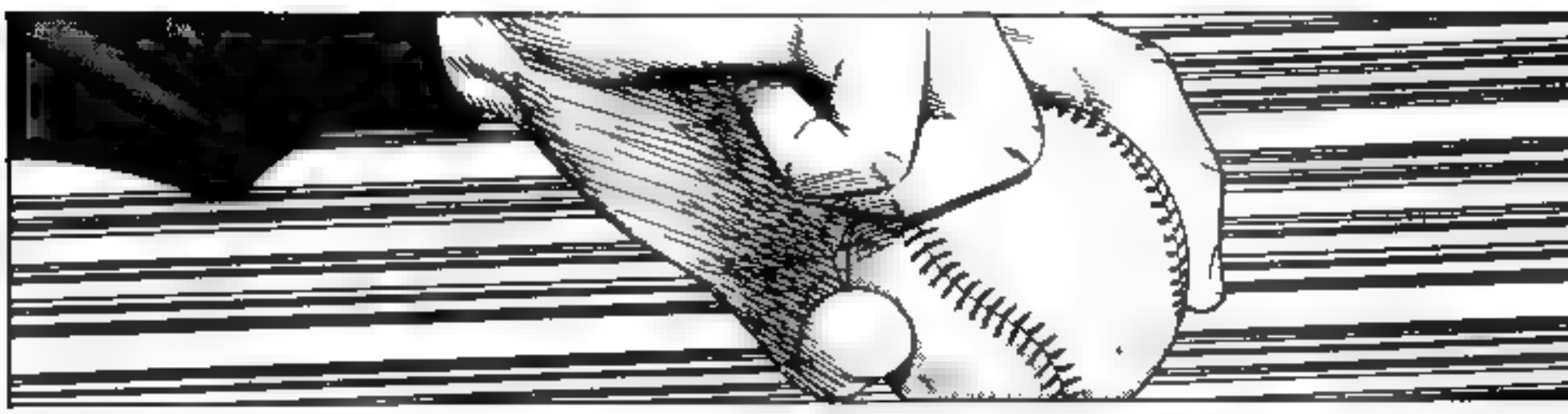
D-DID THAT PITCH JUST

HEH HEH.

N-NO...

IT... FELL...

1



D-
DAMN...
HE'S GOT MORE THAN JUST A HEATER...

SMASH!!

STRIIIIKE!

WHOAAA!

WH...

BUT WHEN DID HE LEARN TO..?

A CURVE..

IT'S A... CURVE-BALL.

THEY WERE ALWAYS STAYING LATE AFTER PRACTICE TO DO *SOMETHING*.

AAAH! DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!

AAA-AH-HH!

HUH.. ?

I-I KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED ..

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THIS..

A CURVE-BALL . ?

MAN, SCREW THIS SHIT..

FWOOSH
STEE-EERIKE THREE!
BATTER OUT!!

UMPH.

THEN A F-FAST-BALL ..

THAT WAS INCRED-IBLE, ANIYA!!

WHAT A CURVE! WHAT A CURVE!!

Vol. 100 The Aesthetic of Man

YEAAAAHHH !!

K.. KEI-CHAN..

F-FABU-LOUS.

AND WHAT A SHARP CURVE, TOO..

WHEN THE HELL DID YOU LEARN TO TOSS A CURVE?!

1

MAN, DON'T ACT ALL COOL UP THERE!

THAT ANIYA...

AND IT MAKES HIS EXCELLENT FASTBALL *MUCH* MORE EFFECTIVE

THAT WILL EXPAND THE RANGE OF HIS PITCHING CONSIDERABLY

BY HAVING TWO DISTINCT PITCHES, HE CAN THROW OFF THEIR SENSE OF TIMING...

I CAN USE MY GENIUS GAME-CALLING ABILITY TO CRUISE FROM HERE ON OUT

C'MON, ANIYA, LET'S SET UP SOME SIGNS.

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE! TWO DOWN!

YEAAAAH!

HUH? WHAT'S UP?

OH, IT'S *HIM* UP NEXT.

ptu

.....

HELL NO!

HE'S A PITCHER, NOT A HITTER!

WHOA! W-WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?

HE'S A GOOD HITTER; I REMEMBER THAT.

HE'D TALK ABOUT HOW HE HIT FOUR STRAIGHT HOMERS ONCE, IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

HUH?

JUST A SHITTY PITCHER!

WHAT IS HE?

THAT'S ALL...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE FUCK YOU DID?!

ガバ

ガバ

DON'T PULL THIS STUPID SHIT...

WE'RE OBVIOUSLY GONNA GET SOME KINDA SUSPEN-SION!

THAT KINDA BRAWL MAKES PERMA-NENT HISTORY!

ARE YOU FUCKING CRAZY, MAN?!

I FELT BETTER AFTER I DID IT.

WHO CARES?

I OUGHTA KILL YOU!

.....

YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY ?!

WHAT . ?

HEH HEH.

OKAY, FINE, I CAN SEE HOW YOU FEEL.

HEH... HEH HEH... GEEZ, DON'T GET ALL MAD.

AND YOU'RE A SHITTY OUTFIELDER AND PINCH-HITTER...

I'M A RELIEF PITCHER...

WE'RE BOTH FIRST-YEARS, AND WE MANAGED TO LAND JOBS IN THE LINE-UP

IF YOU HAD THAT SHIT HAPPEN TO YOU IN THAT POSITION, YOU'D SNAP, TOO.

GYAHAHAHA! SORRY, SORRY.

I BET YOU'RE SO PISSED OFF YOU CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT.

IT'S HILARI-OUS.

BUT WHO GETS CALLED ON TO PINCH-HIT WITH TWO OUTS AND RUNNERS ON THE CORNERS? NOT YOU. ME.

KKH...

FUCK YOU!

YOU GOTTA AT LEAST BEAT ME IN A FIGHT,

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT ME ON THE FIELD.

URGH...

COME ON.

I'LL KILL YOU...

HEY.

HMM?

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?!

STOP THAT! STOP IT, YOU TWO!

HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

THAT'S A CURVE.
TWO FINGERS.

I'LL SAY IT ONE MORE TIME.
GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME.

ANIYA!
WHUH?
1

HEH! I'M A TOTAL GENIUS.
WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE RUNNERS PICKING THAT UP.

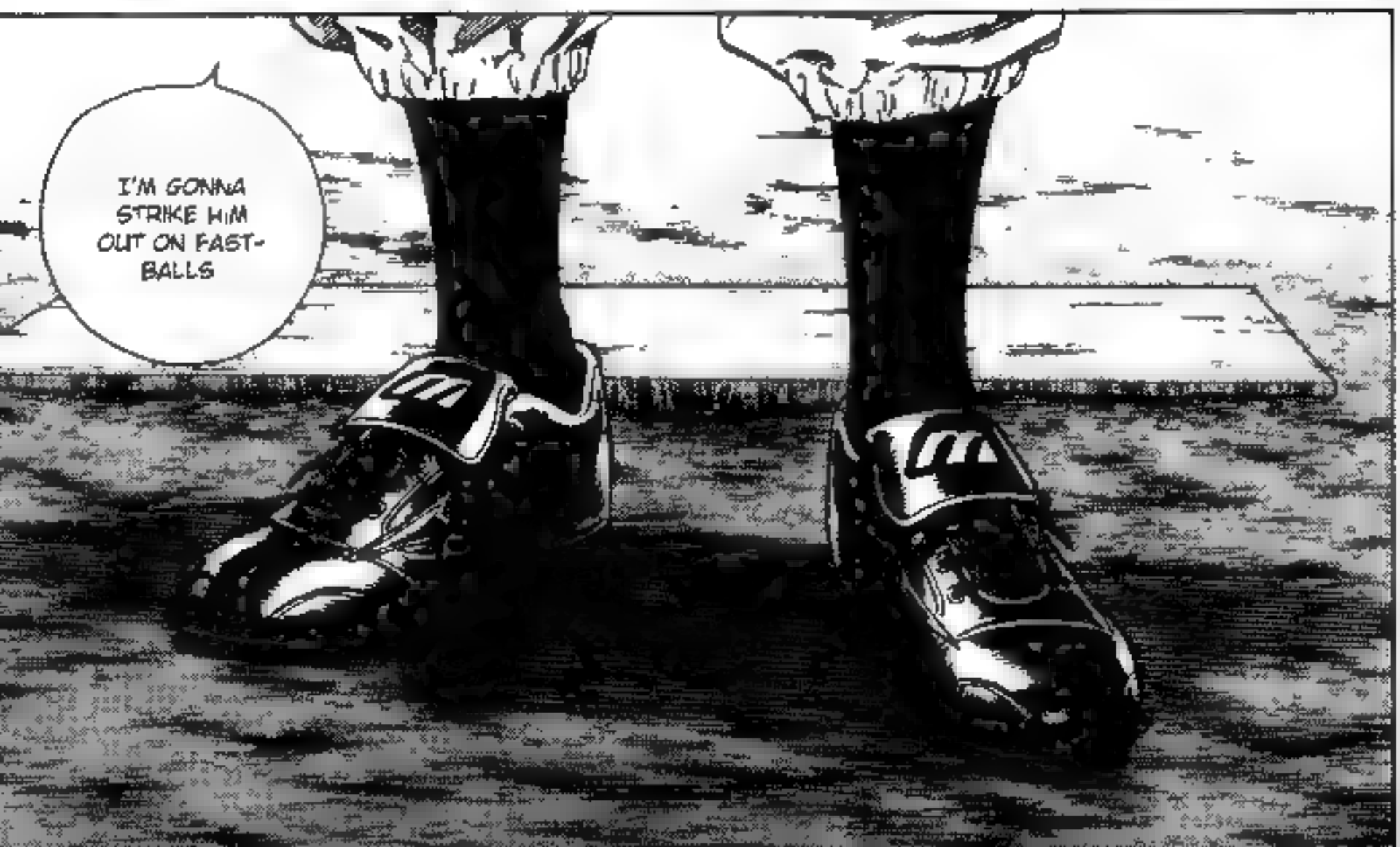
HEY! SNAP OUT OF IT!

AND THIS ONE WITH A CURVED FINGER? THAT'S A FASTBALL.

1

STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN, MAN.
JUST GIVE HIM A CURVE TO START OFF.

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE NOT
MAN, I'M NOT GONNA GET HIT BY SOME SHITTY PITCHER.


I'M GONNA STRIKE HIM OUT ON FAST-BALLS

HUH?
YOU SAY SOME-THING?
1

HERE WE GO, THIS IS IT
HEH. HEH HEH.

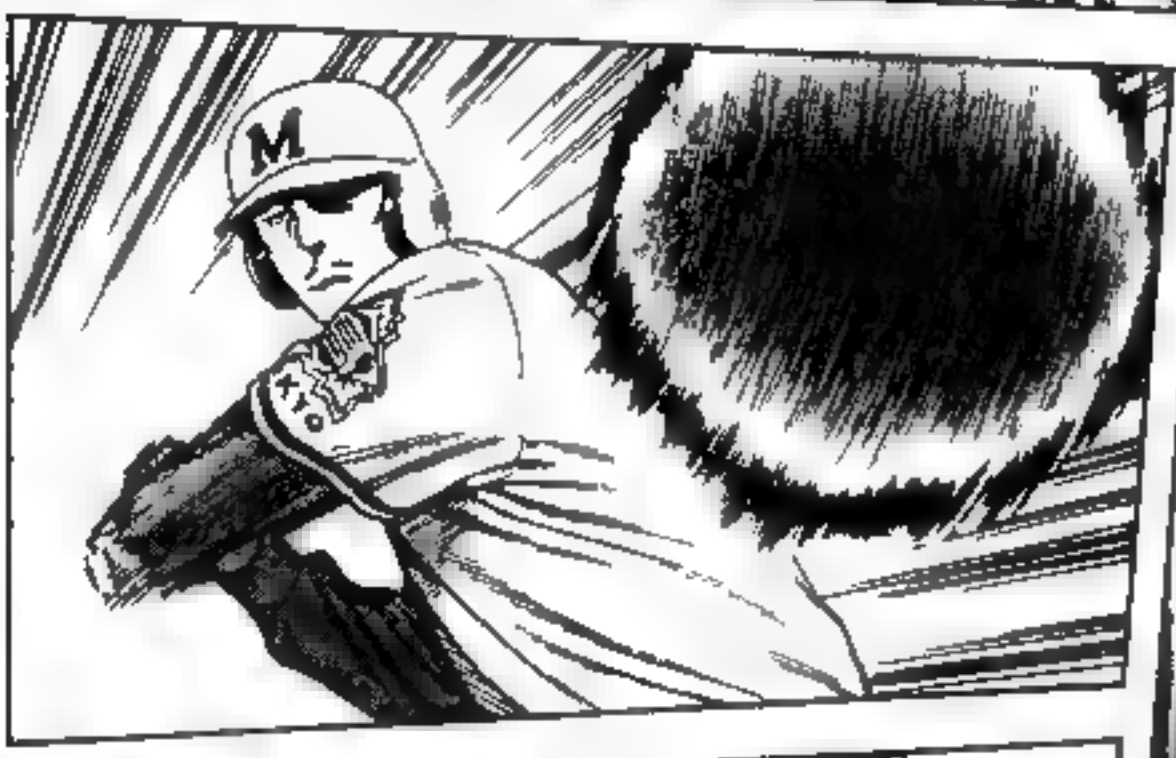
MM..?

PLAY BALL!

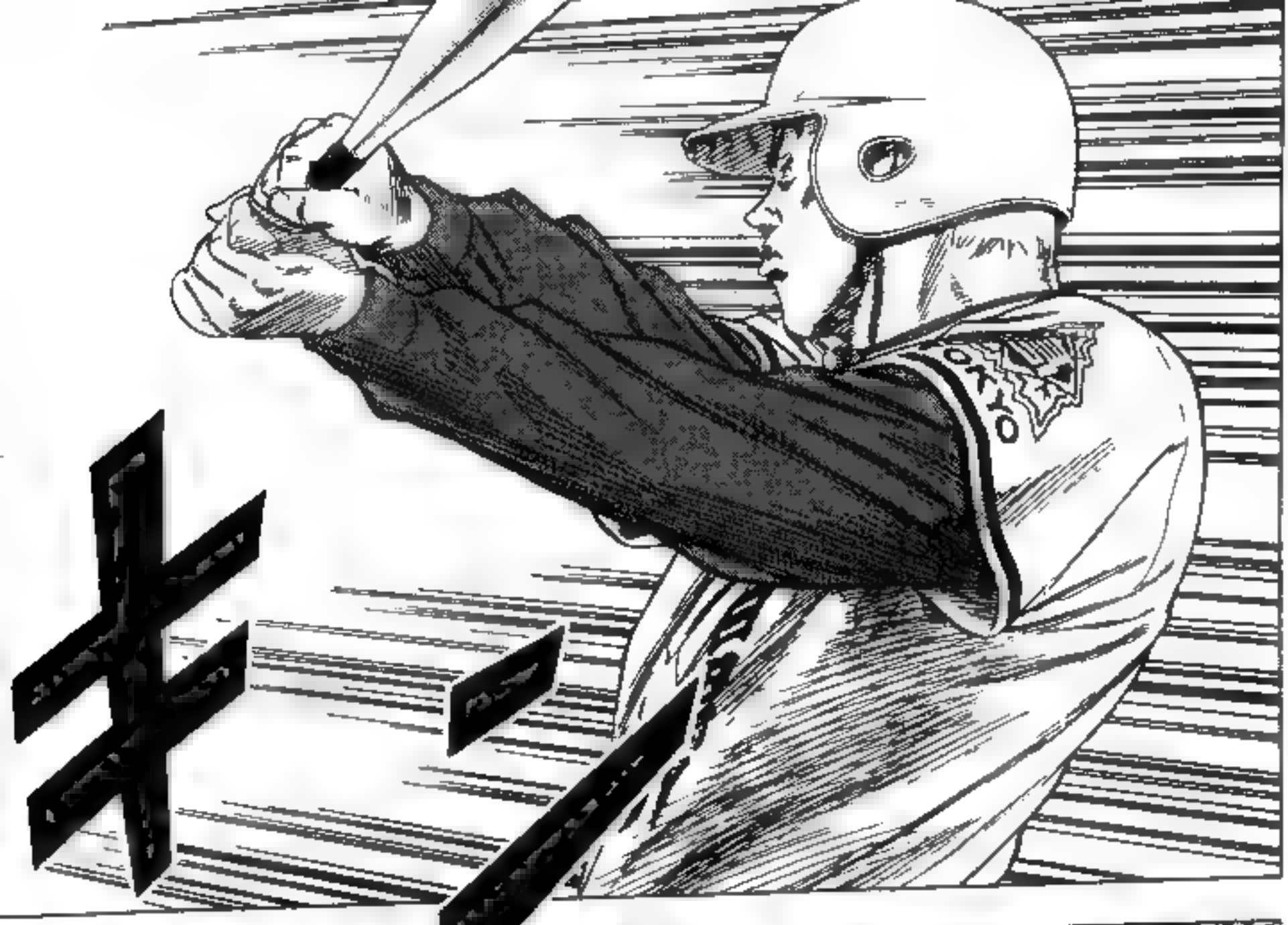
AH!
WHAT AN IDIOT!
NO!

WHAT ...?

HE'S GOING INTO A WIND-UP!

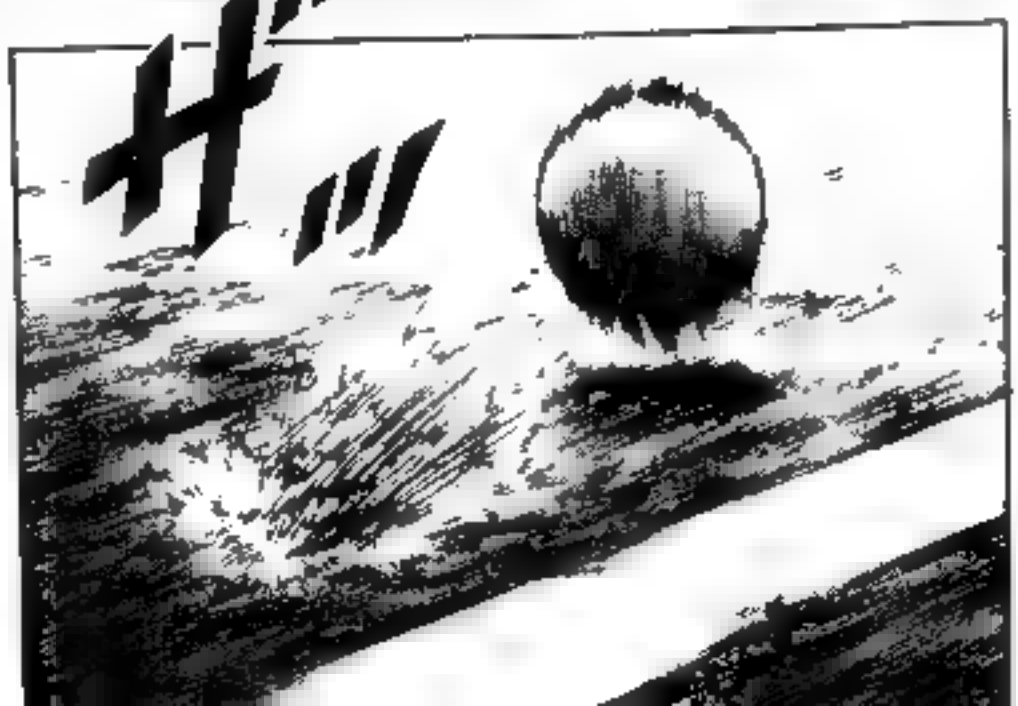

M
KYO

FASTB...


TOKYO

!

FOUL BALL!



LOOK AT THE SIGN, DAMN IT!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

I CALLED FOR A CURVE!

.....

TSK

I WAS LOOKING FOR THE FASTBA...

T-THAT WAS CLOSE

TIIME!

TIME OUT.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE RUNNER STEALS SECOND BASE?

YOU CAN'T THROW WITH A WIND-UP..

DON'T FORGET THE SITUA-TION!

ANIYA, YOU HAVE A RUNNER ON FIRST BASE!

.....

HUH ...?

Y- YOU'RE THROWING A CURVE, RIGHT? UHH...

W-WHAT? NO...

OKAY, NO MESSING AROUND THIS TIME

CURVE-BALL.

ANIYA!

WHAT DID I SAY...?

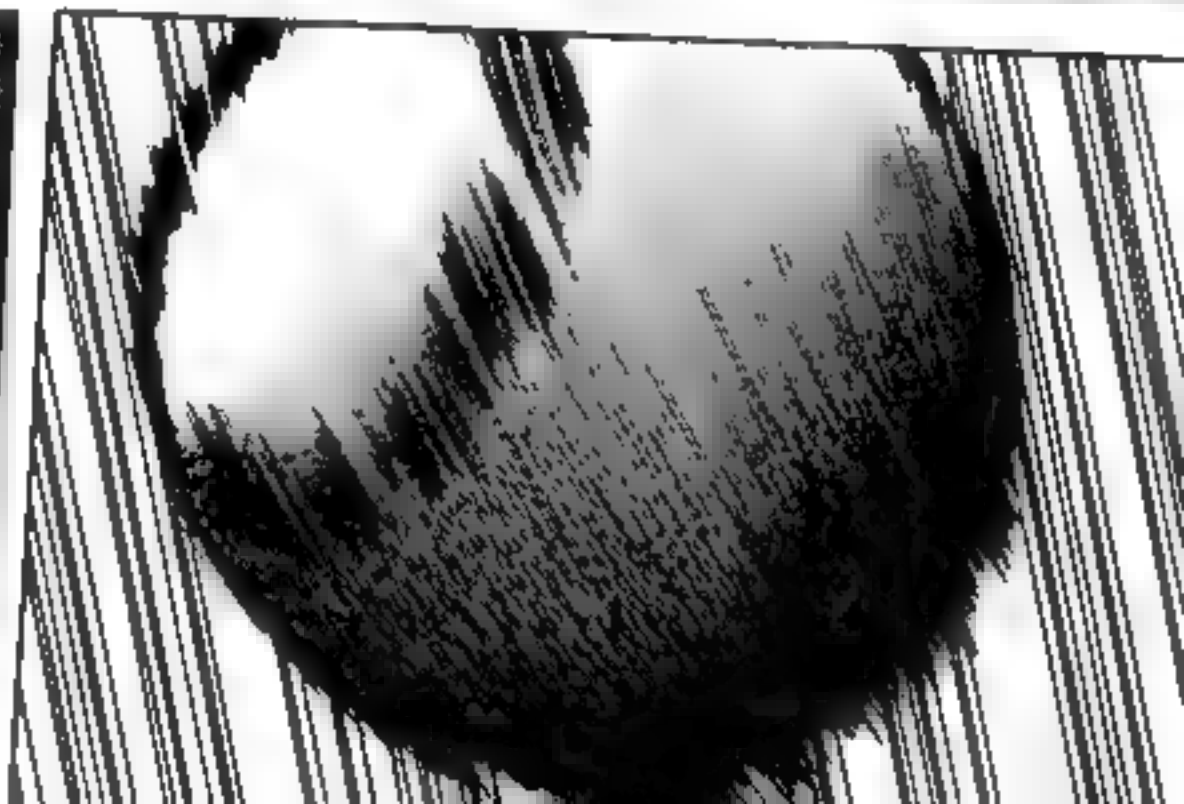
KEH! HE'S WINDING UP AGAIN!

YEAH, I GOT IT.

IT'S A CURVE...

ハア

!



STRIIIIKE!

.....

AAAH, NOT AGAIN...

WHOA

.....

SHIT!

F-
FUCKIN'
IDIOT...

AWWW
MAN...

THAT
WAS
CLOSE...

ALL
RIGHT,
I SEE
NOW.

HEH.

MEN ON
SECOND
AND
THIRD,
NOW

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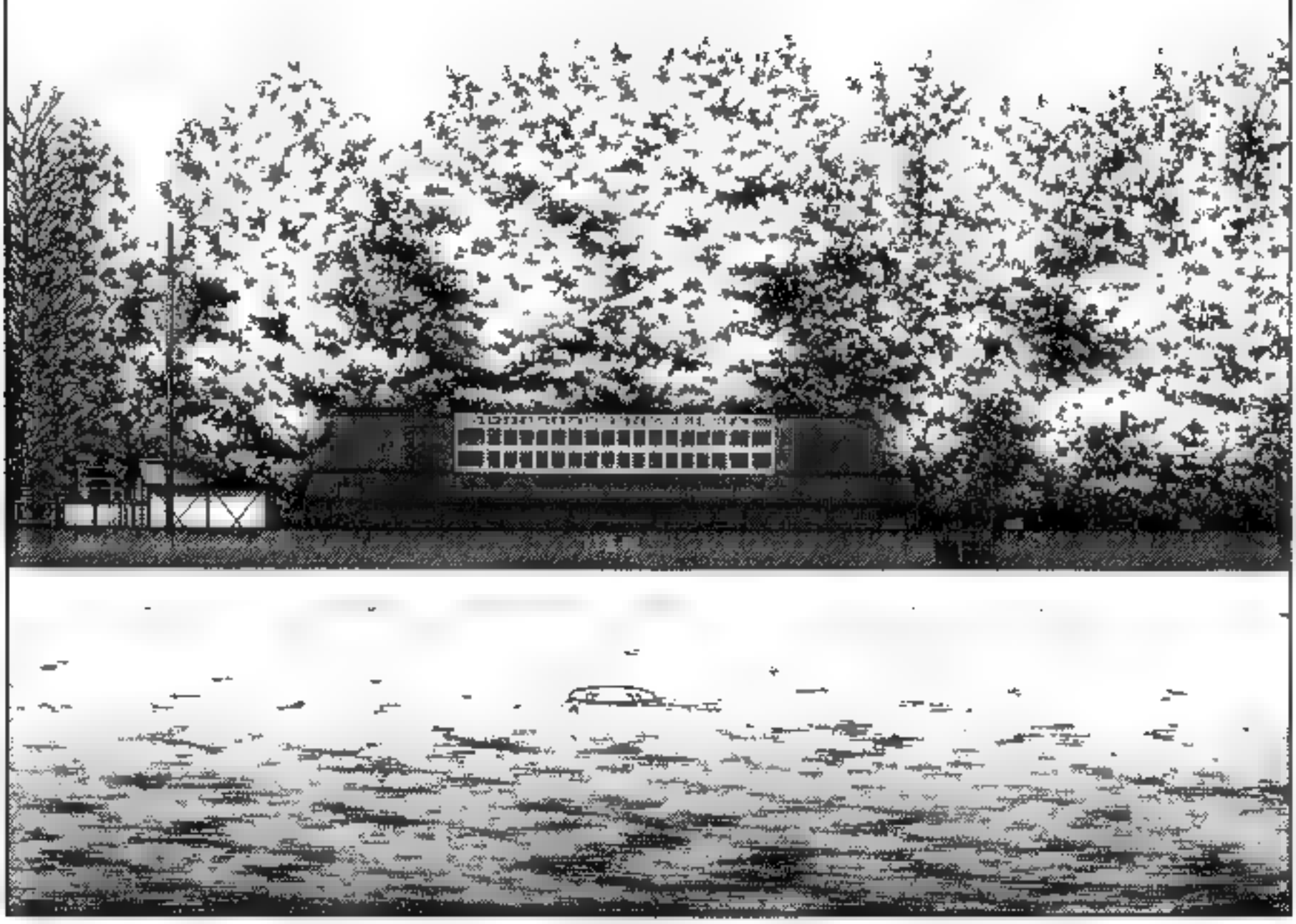
The Scenery From 0-2



TIIIME!

GOD-DAMMIT!

TIME!

WHAT IS HE DOING?

NOW THE RUNNERS ARE ON SECOND AND THIRD.

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN THROWING OUT THERE ?!

ARE YOU EVEN LOOKING AT MY SIGNS ?!

THIS MEANS CURVE-BALL, YOU MORON!

H-HEY, DON'T SHOUT IT LIKE THAT..

.....

ANIYA IS COMPLETELY LOSING CONCEN-TRATION.
YES AND HE'S MISSING HIS SIGNS.

.....

.....

.....

ENOUGH TO LOSE ALL SIGHT OF THE SITUATION AT LARGE

HE'S COMPLETELY SUCKED UP IN THE MOMENT..

HUH?

NO, HE IS CONCEN-TRATING

TOO MUCH, IN FACT

THROW THE CURVE THIS TIME.

YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT.

!?

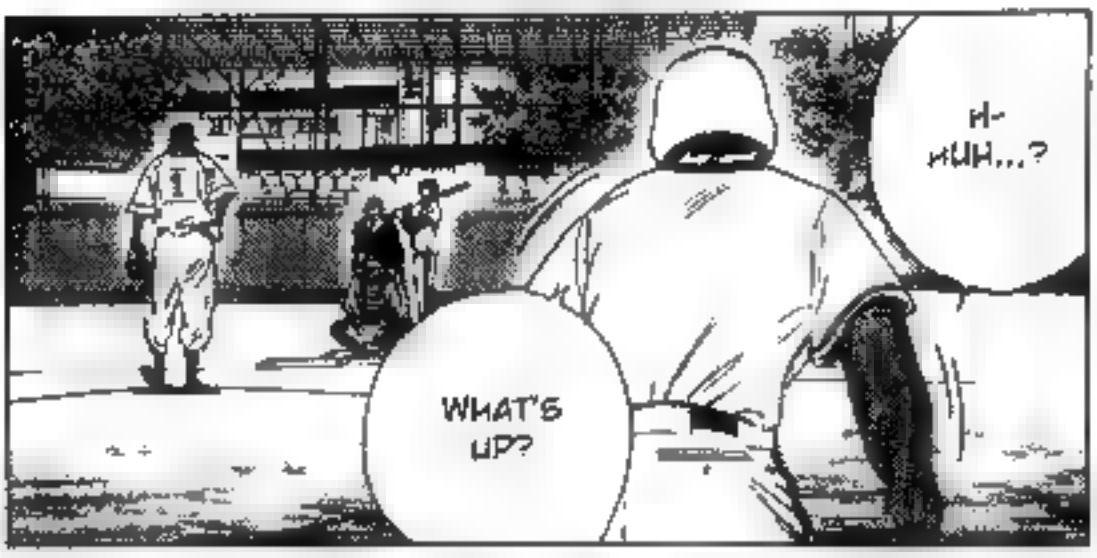
DON'T BOTHER GIVING HIM THE SIGN FOR A CURVE

6

PLAY BALL!

.....

WHAT AN IDIOT.
I THINK HE WON'T BE SATISFIED UNLESS HE STRIKES ME OUT WITH ALL FASTBALLS.


H-HUH...?
WHAT'S UP?

WHEW-WWW.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
GEEZ, LOOK AT HIS LEAD.

ACK!
ANIYA!

LOOK AT ME, DAMMIT!

ASS-WIPE...

WHAT A MORON.

GRR...

SENSE! THE COACH ISN'T ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE DUGOUT!

.....

.....

ミ"ャ!!

!
ALL RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HUH?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE...
DAAAAHHH!!

WHA...

WAIT!

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS, SOME KINDA GAME?!

WE'RE GONNA STRAIGHT-EN YOU OUT!!

AGH!

GO HOME, BITCH!

DON'T WORRY, WE'RE JUST GETTING HIM BACK IN THE GAME.

HEY! HEY YOU! STOP THAT!

WELL, IT'S NO WONDER THEY'RE ANGRY

WHAT ?!

.....

.....

YEAH, YEAH, SHUT UP!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON, HERE? THEY COULD STEAL HOME!

LOOK AT THE GODDAMN RUNNERS!

HUH?!

HIRA-TSUKA!

YES.

HELL YEAH! TIME FOR ME TO STEP UP AND FILL THE GAP!

THEY'RE ALL SERIOUSLY MAD AT YOU!

MAN, SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOU.

DON'T BE DICTATING YOUR TERMS TO ME.

THIS IS A ONE-ON-ONE MATCH BETWEEN ME AND ENATSU.

ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?

ANIYA!

W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?

SHUT UP.

?
1

W-
WHAT...?

PITCHING
CHANGE,
BUB.

HEH HEH HEH HEH.
.....
WHA ...
R-REALLY ...?

HEH HEH! FINALLY, IT'S COME. AFTER AGES OF WAITING...
COACH'S ORDERS.

WAAAAAAAAH!!
NO, I WAS JUST KIDDING!
.....

MY ERA HAS ARRIVED !!!

COME ON BACK, HIRA-TSUKA!
HA HA HAAAA!
WHAT?!
.....

.....
W-WHAT THE...?

.....

VE FOR ALL

WHEN A PITCHER DOES BAD, HE GETS PULLED.

!

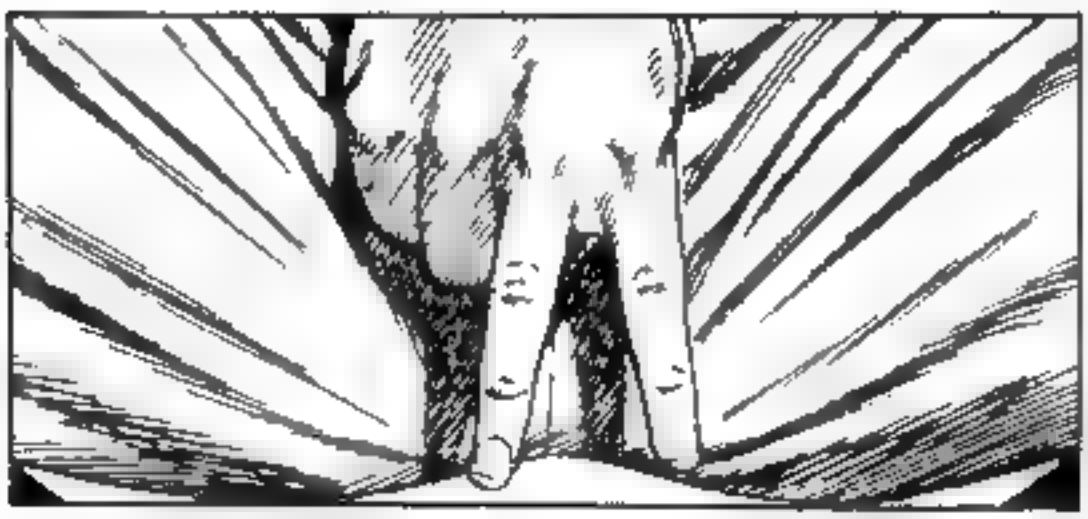
OWW!

ガッ

ポ…

……

IT MEANS DON'T PULL THIS SHIT ALL ON YOUR OWN.



HEY

JESUS, LOOK WHERE THE RUNNER IS!

NOT AGAIN!

LOOK AT THE RUNNERS ...

HE KNOWS YOU'RE THROWING A FAST-BALL!

C'MON, MAN! NOD TO LET ME KNOW YOU UNDER-STAND!

M

HE KNOWS YOUR PITCH!

BATTER OUT!

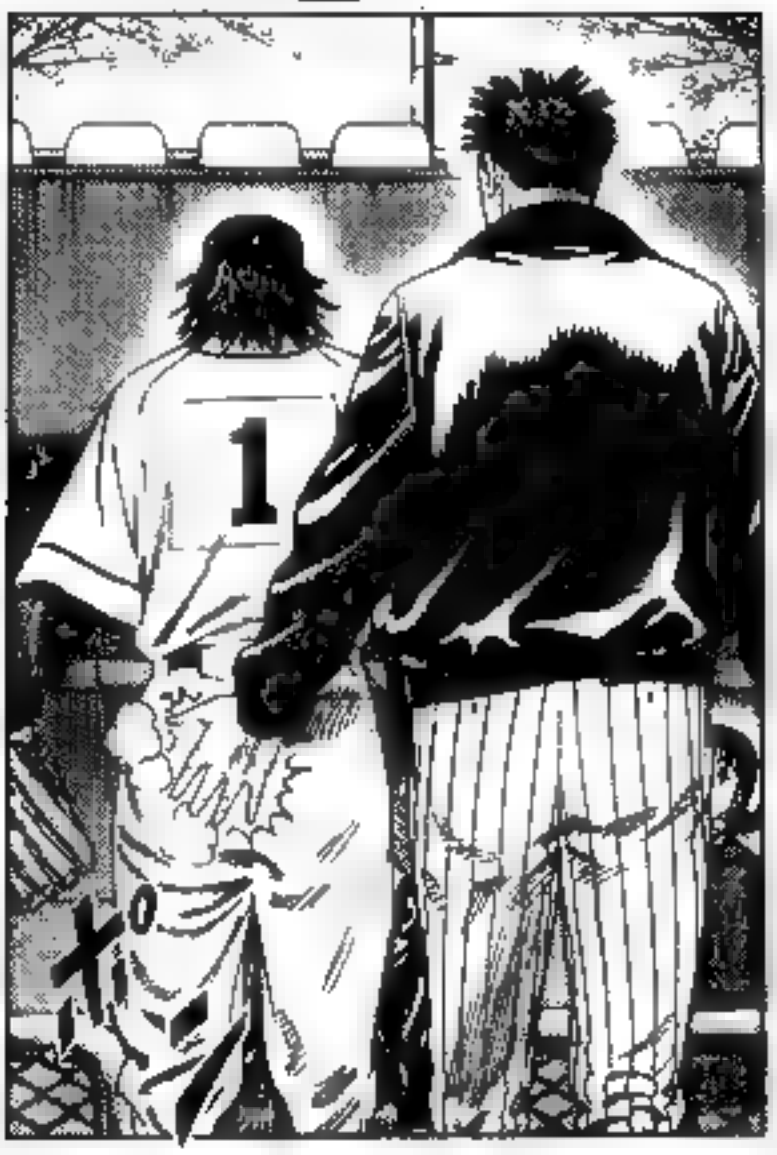
STRIKE THREE!

W...

WHOA...

OH...

6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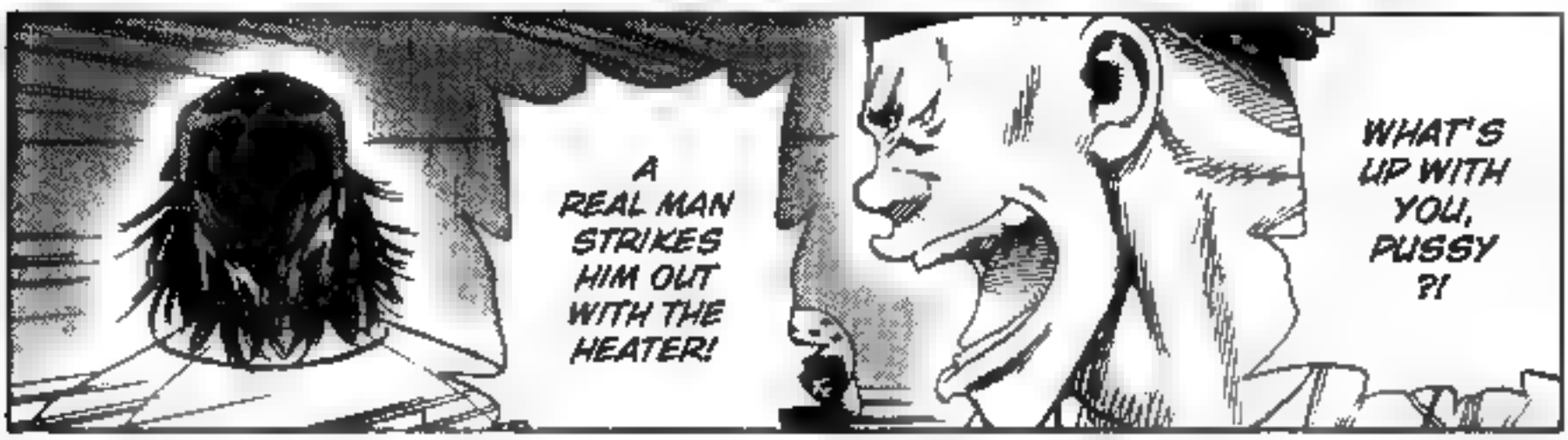
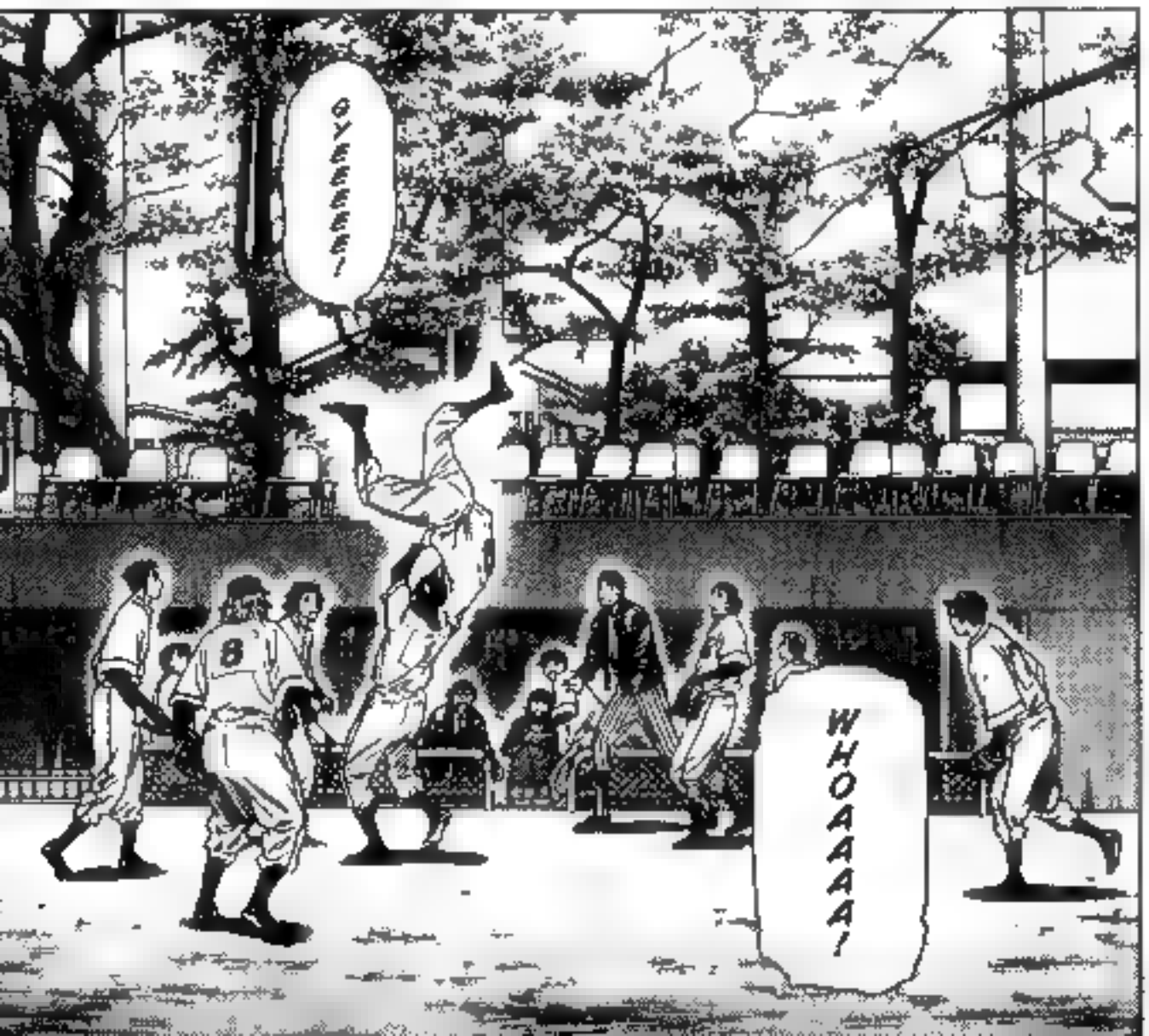
ANIYA DOESN'T LOOK VERY HAPPY ABOUT THAT STRIKE-OUT...

HE'LL BE LAUGHING BY THE END OF THIS ONE.
HAH. IT'S ONLY THE BOTTOM OF THE 2ND


A REAL MAN STRIKES HIM OUT WITH THE HEATER!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, PUSSY?!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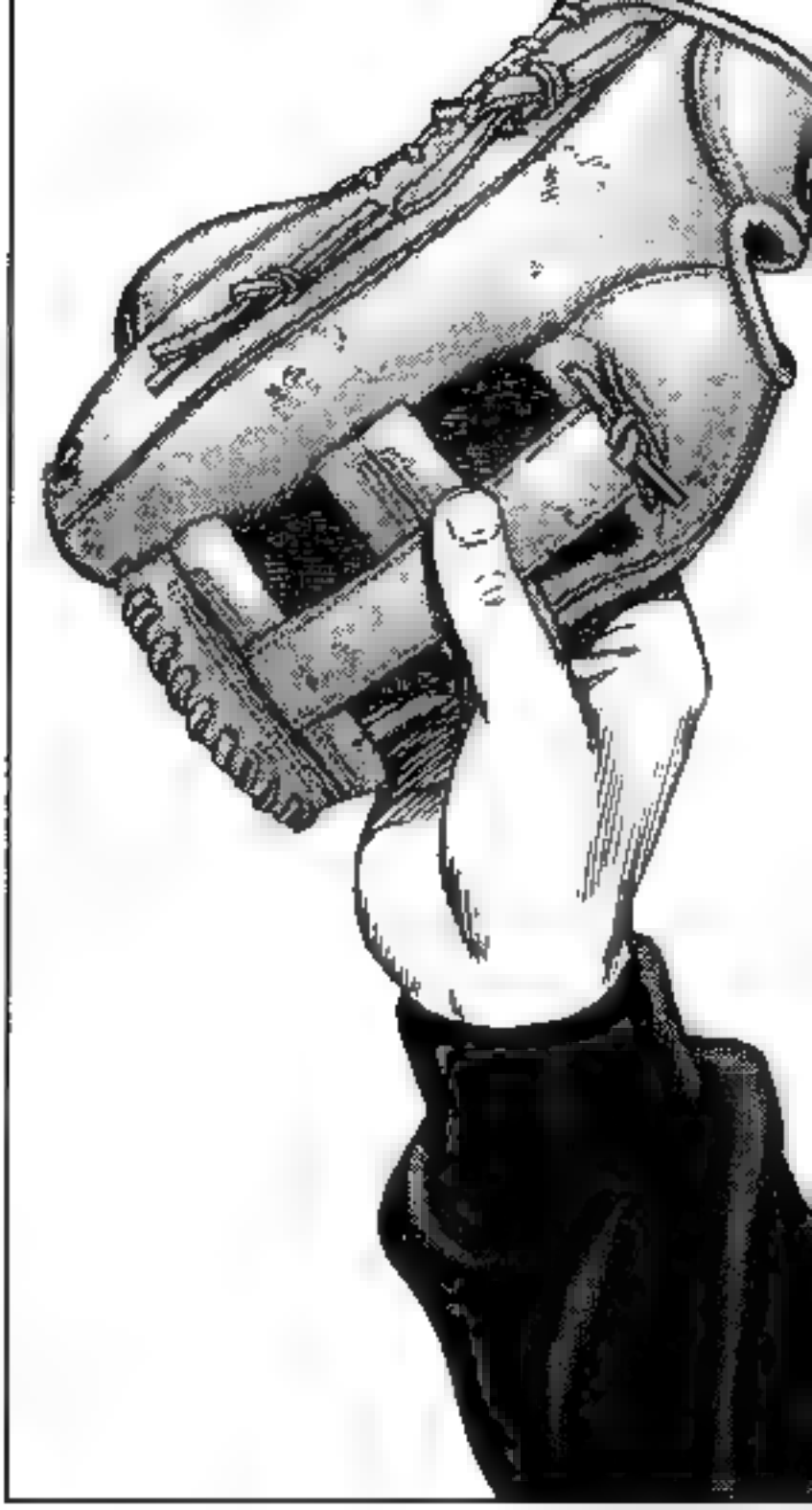
OYEEEEE!
WHOAAAA!

10

Vol.102 As One

AAAH!

ANIYA!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!



WHAT'D YOU SAY ABOUT MY CURVE?!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! DON'T GET MAD BECAUSE YOU STRUCK THE GUY OUT!
I DIDN'T EVEN MENTION THE WORD "CURVE"!

KEI-CHAN...

DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME THAT WAS A NICE PITCH!

EVERYONE ELSE MIGHT NOT SEE A DIFFERENCE, BUT HE DOES.

HE WANTED TO SUBDUE HIS OPPONENT THROUGH SHEER FORCE, NOT TRICKERY...

HE WANTED TO GET ENATSU THAT WAY

I GUESS HE REALLY WANTED TO CHALLENGE THE GUY WITH HIS FAST-BALL.

.....

SUCH AN ANIYA-LIKE THING TO DO.

WHA...

NICE CURVE.

.....!

A PERFECT STRIKEOUT.

THE VERY IMAGE OF GOOD PITCHING!

THAT STRIKEOUT IS ONLY MAKING ENATSU MORE FRUSTRATED.

HUH?

WATCH

W-WHAT?!

OKAY, PEOPLE!

HIS PITCHING'S GOING TO BE WILD, THIS INNING.

YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT

AS YOU CAN SEE, ENATSU WAS VERY PROUD OF HIS BATTING SKILLS.

HE'S PROBABLY FURIOUS OUT THERE.

ALL RIGHT!

EVERY MAN DOES HIS PART TO SCORE RUNS, THIS INNING!

GOT IT?! THIS IS OUR CHANCE!

YOU'LL HAVE OTHER CHANCES TO SETTLE YOUR SCORE WITH ENATSU.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO SWING THE BAT.

.....

YEAH!

LET'S DO IT!

!

YOUR PERFECT CURVEBALL SAVED THE TEAM FROM TROUBLE, AND FIRED THEM UP FOR THIS INNING.

.....

I KNOW, I KNOW

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL, SEKI-KAWA!

ALL RIGHT, TIME TO HIT!

GOT THAT, YOU GUYS?! WE'RE GONNA SCORE, THIS INNING!

NO! I MEAN MAKE SURE I GET UP!

NO SHIT, WE ARE!

HUH?

WAIT A MINUTE, SEKIKA-WAAA!

UH, I KNOW, DUDE.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!

!

PLAY BALL!

WATCH IT, MAN!

SEKIKA-WAAAA!

!

D-DAMN, HE'S WILD ...

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S PITCHING THIS SHITTY...

WHOA!

BALL!

KEEP WATCH-ING IT!

SEE THAT ?!

ALL RIGHT!

BALL!

SHUT UP, AL-READY!

COME ON, DO IT.

YOU AIN'T THE CAPTAIN.

W-WHAT?

ALL RIGHT, LET'S PRACTICE SWINGING TO TIME HIS FASTBALL.

EVERY-ONE ON YOUR FEET.

CRACK

BALL!

WAY TO GO! MAN ON BASE!

HEH HEH.

HERE WE GO!

THAT'S ONE TO START IT OFF!

TAKE YOUR BASE!

S B O

BALL FOUR!

HELL YEAH !!

INCRED-IBLE... HE'S ONLY GOTTEN WILDER. .

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT SHIT-HEAD?

.....

ptu

MIKO-SHIBA-AAA!

C'MON, MIKOSHIBA! KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!

AAH! DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!

GOOD AFTER-NOON!

THEN COMES THE LAND-SLIDE.

ONCE WE GET SOME RUNS, ENATSU WON'T BE ABLE TO RE-COVER!

IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT WE COULD HAVE CONSECUTIVE WALKS, BUT THEN...

SEKIKAWA LOOKS READY TO RUN.

DOES HE THINK THAT'S A SIGN?

DON'T RUN, THEN ...?

IT'S SO OBVIOUS.

RUN...?

NO...?

WHUH-?

HMM?

MIKO-SHI-BAAA!

MIKO-SHIBA!

BALL!

I COULD STEAL THIRD IF I WANTED.

BUT WHAT'S MY STRENGTH? MY LEGS.

!

!

CRAP...

OUUUUT!

AWWWW!

SHIT, THAT'S EMBAR-RASSING

AWW, DAMMIT . .

G-GUNNED DOWN BY THE CATCH-ER.

. . . . . .

A-AND THAT THROW, RIGHT TO THE FIRST BASEMAN'S FEET ..ITERA..Y PERFECT

W-WHAT AGILITY FOR SUCH A LARGE FRAME..

HE CAN STILL DO EVERY-THING.

THAT KONO GUY

WHAT?!

YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH HIM?!

OH YES, HE WENT TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL AS YOU, DIDN'T HE?

SHIIIT.

WHAT THE HELL

I'VE *ALWAYS* HATED THAT GUY.

HELL NO!

HE CAN DO MORE THAN JUST HIT.

HE'S INCRED-IBLE...

DON'T BE SLEEPIN' ON THE BASES, OUT THERE!

HEY, JACK-ASS!

PLAY BALL!

CRAPPY SIGNS?!

SHUT UP! YOU CONFUSED ME WITH YOUR CRAPPY SIGNS!

DON'T BE SHOWIN' OFF.

TSK.

M

TOKY

WHOA.

.....!?

WHAT'S UP, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

STRIIIKE!

HMPH.

HE'S CALMED DOWN, NOW THAT HE HAS AN OUT

.....

THIS IS A COMMON THING TO HAPPEN.

MIKO-SHIBA!

AWWW!

STRIIIIKE!

MIKOSHI-BAAAA!

...DO YOU THINK HE'S THROWING EVEN FASTER, NOW?

HE'S BACK TO NORMAL.

DAMN, MAN! I THOUGHT THE WHEELS WERE COMING OFF!

HUH..?

YEAH, BUT IF YOU LOOK HARD, IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S UNHITTABLE.

DAMN, MAN!

AWWWW!

ARE YOU SERIOUS ...

STRIKE THREE!

BATTER OUT!

I BET ANIYA'S STILL FASTER THAN HE IS.

SHIIIT ...

DON'T WORRY.

HE'S GETTING FASTER.

'COURSE I AM.

HMM?

WAKANA'S USED TO CATCHING ANIYA'S PITCHES.

OH... OF COURSE.

T-THAT'S TRUE.

AT THE VERY LEAST, HE SHOULD BE ACCUSTOMED TO THAT SPEED.

PLAY BALL!

BUT IN JUST TWO MONTHS, HE WAS ABLE TO COPE WITH IT, EASILY...

AT FIRST, HE WAS SO SCARED, HE WOULD CLOSE HIS EYES...

...THAT HE COULD HARBOR NCREDIBLE TALENT...

YOU KNOW, IT'S POSSIBLE...

OHHH!

WHOAA!

Vol.103 Superstar (For Now)

DRO-
OOO-
OOP
!!

SHIT

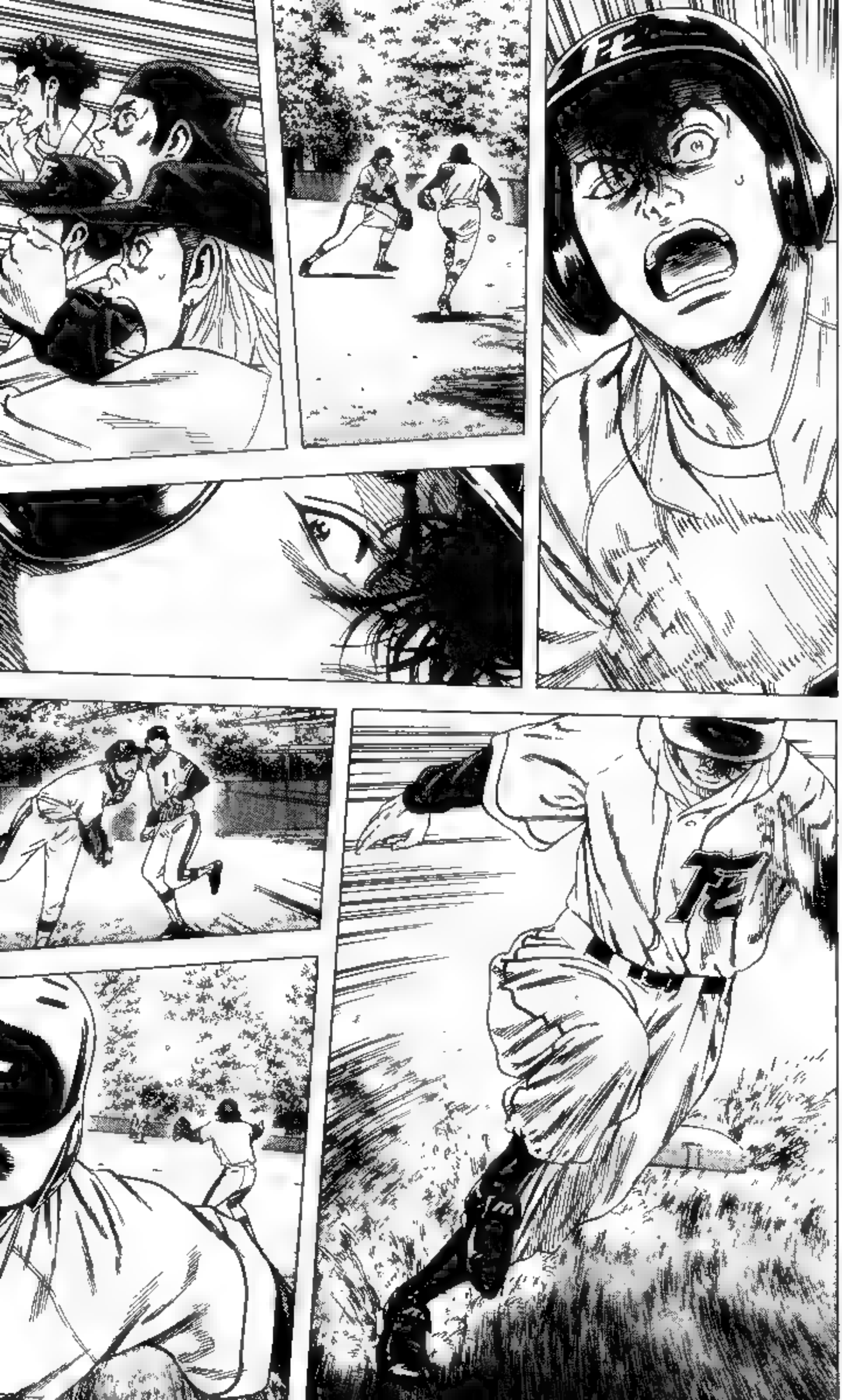
HUH?

THAT'S IN THE GAAAP!

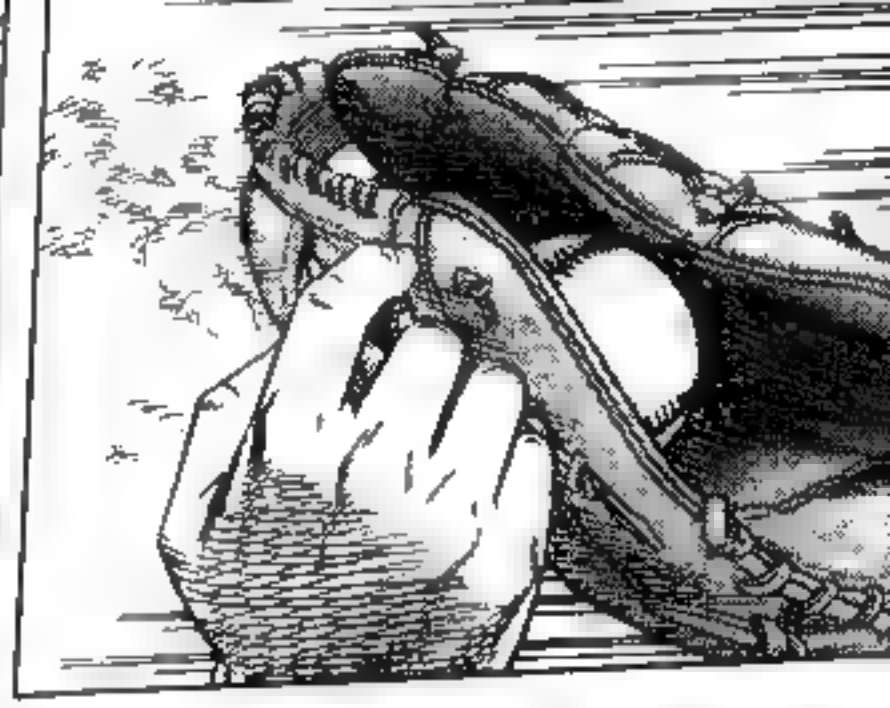
IT GOT THRO-UGH!

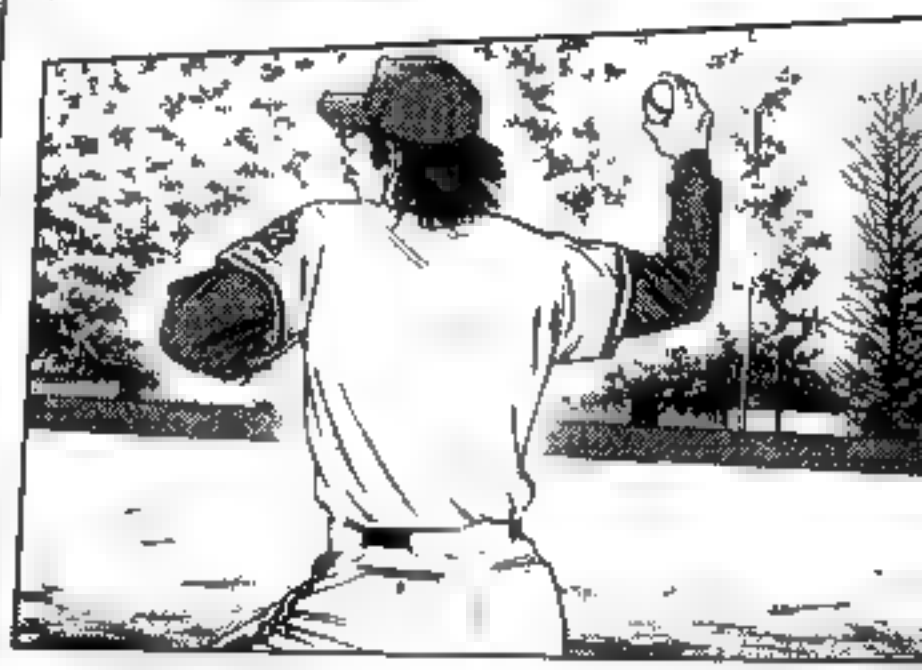
GO, GO, GO, GO!!

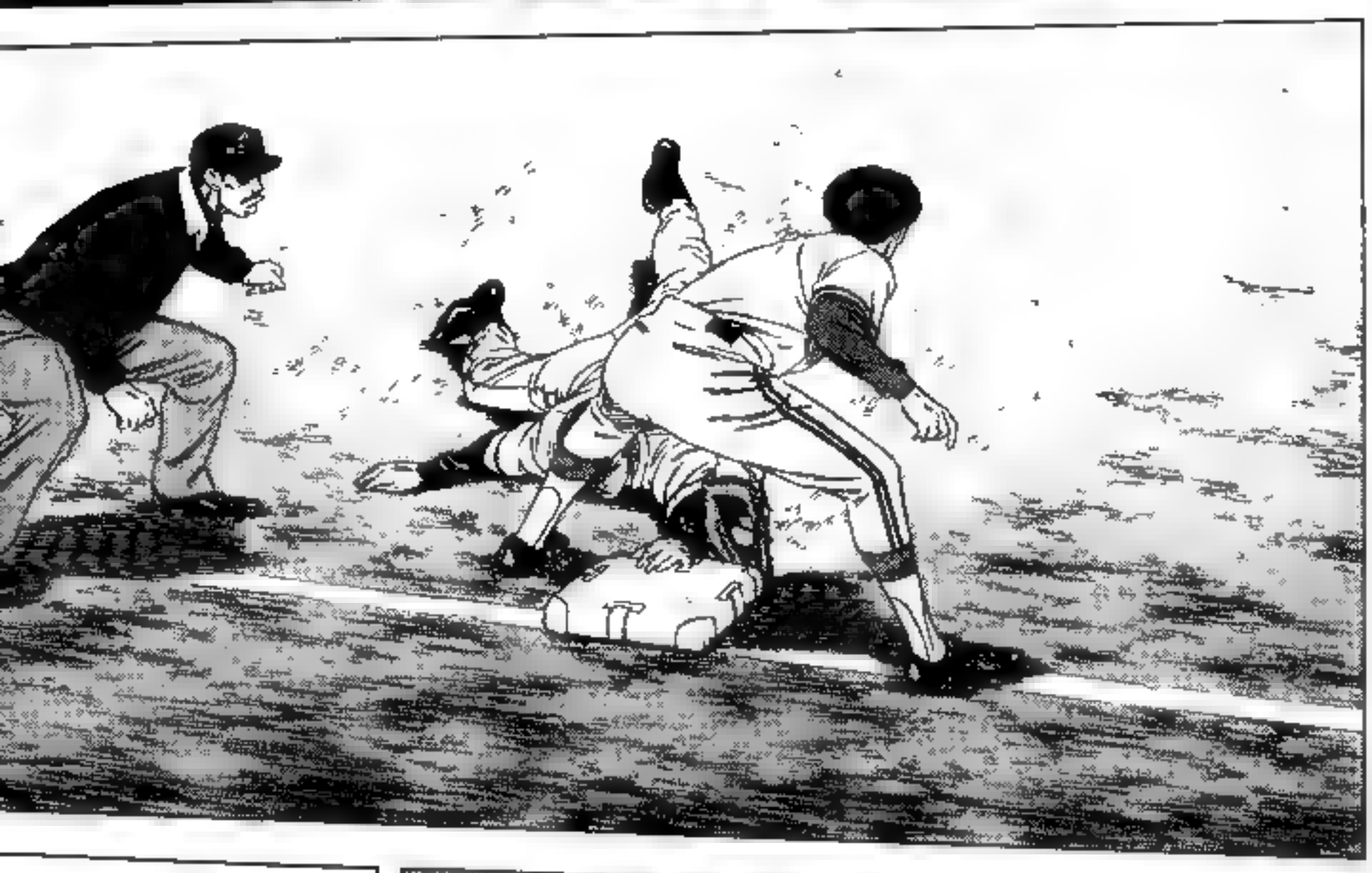
RUN, RUN, RUN, RUN!!



TOKYO







HOLY SHIIIIT !!

YEA- AAA- AAH!

SAAAAFE !!

I... DID IT...

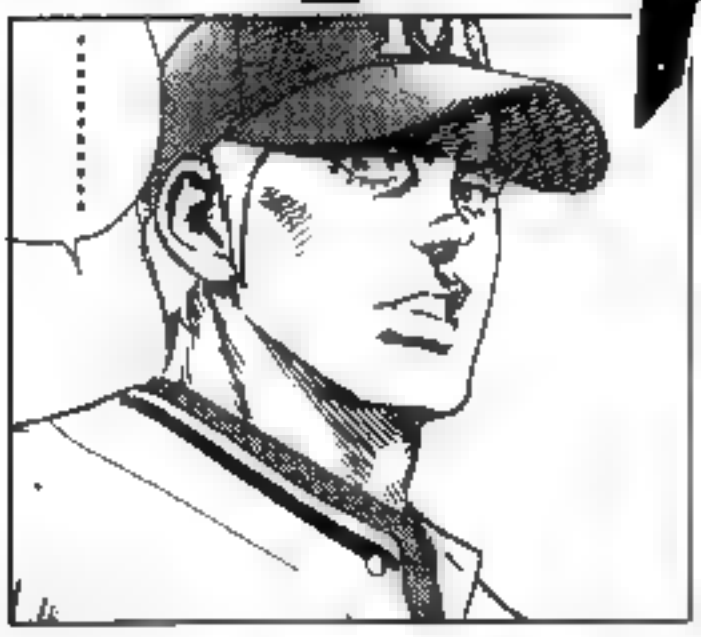
YES- SS- SS!!

DAMN, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

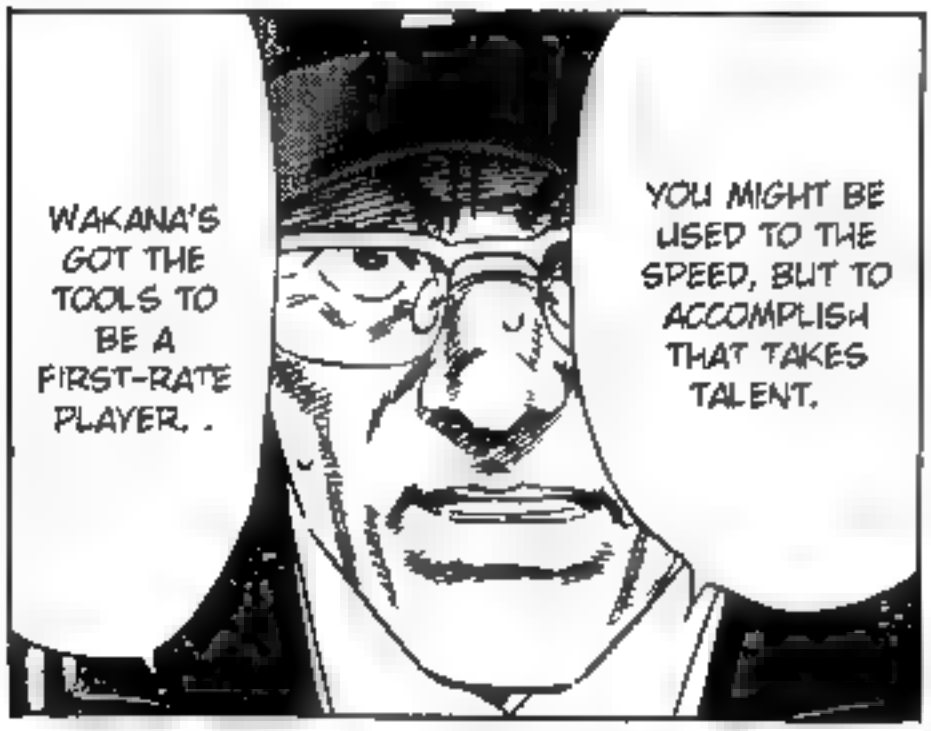
THAT'S A THREE- BAGGER!

A TRIPLE!

WAKA- NAAAA!



YEAH, WHAT'S UP? YOU LIKE THAT?!
GYA HAHA HAHA!


WAKANA'S GOT THE TOOLS TO BE A FIRST-RATE PLAYER. .
YOU MIGHT BE USED TO THE SPEED, BUT TO ACCOMPLISH THAT TAKES TALENT.

AND HE HIT IT PER-FECTLY .
F-FANTASTIC. . HE WAS WALKED INTENTIONALLY LAST TIME UP, SO THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME HE GOT TO SEE ENATSU'S FASTBALL FROM THE PLATE. .

THE ENTIRE TEAM CAN FEEL THE LIGHT.
THE LIGHT OF THE DIAMOND.

!
IMAOKA HIT THE FIRST PITCH, TOO.

C'MON, MAN! RBI OPPOR-TUNITY!
ALL RIGHT, ANIYA! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
ANIYA-AAA!
WE GOTTA TIE THIS THING UP!

.....

PLAY BALL!

AWWWW RIGHT! HERE WE GO!

WATCH, I'M ONLY GONNA THROW FAST-BALLS.

HEY

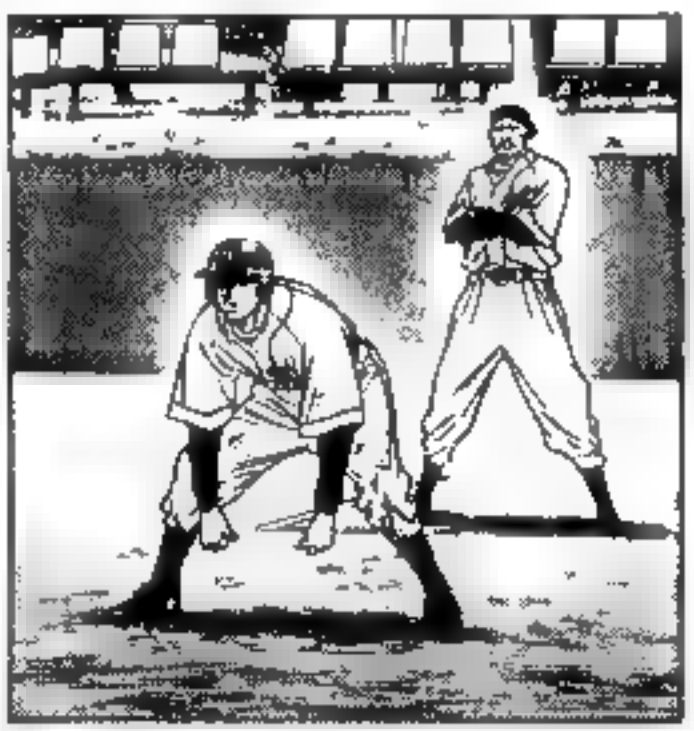
GOOD, HE'S CALM.

HE WON'T RISE TO THE BAIT.

SURE!

AHHH, IF ONLY I HADN'T GOTTEN PICKED OFF! WE'D BE TIED ALREADY!
TIE IT UP, ANIYA! TIE GAME, RIGHT HERE!

KNOCK ME IN.
C'MON, MAN.



STRII-
IIKE!

AWWW...

WHOA-
AA.

HEH
HEH.

HEY! DON'T BE GETTIN' NERVOUS!

TIME! TIME OUT

BABUMP BABUMP

ANIYA'S PROBABLY FEELING MORE PRESSURE, NOW. .

HE WON'T BE GIVING US THAT RUN EASILY, I'M AFRAID.

ENATSU'S SURPRISINGLY CALM, AS WELL.

HE HIT THAT SPOT PERFECTLY.

THIS IS A GUY WHO WAS CALLED A SUPERSTAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

HE'S STILL ANIYA.

NO, HE'LL BE FINE.

TIE IT UP, FIRST...

HE'S BRINGING THE HEAT...

THAT IDIOT ISN'T EVEN THINKING ABOUT AN OFFSPEED PITCH.

I'M GONNA KNOCK THIS RUN IN!

I'M GONNA SMACK THE NEXT FASTBALL!

COME ON, ANIYA-AA!

ANIYA-AAAA!

PLAY!

HE'S CHOKING UP ON THE BAT...

WHAT?

OH..

LOOK AT ANIYA...

GOO-
OO!

UP THE MIDDLE!

THAT'S A BASE HIIIIT!!

TIE GAME!

RIGHT BACK UP THE MIDDLE !!

HE DID IIIT!

WE'RE ALL TIED UP!

WAY TO HIT, DOGG!!

HELL YEAAAAH! YOU SEE THAT?!

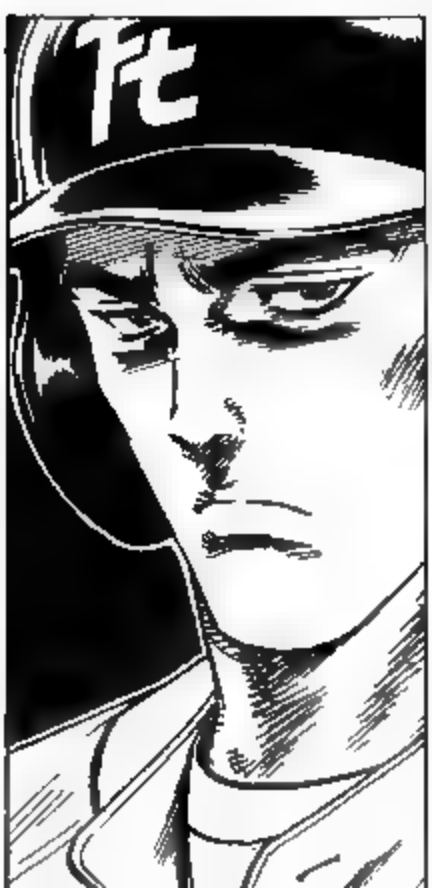
1

Vol.104 Cut the Wind!

HA HA HA! RIGHT IN YOUR FACE, YOU PIECE OF SHIT!
.....
.....
KEH! LOOK AT TH S GUY, GETTIN' ROCKED.
MAN, I THOUGHT THESE GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE BARELY ABLE TO PLAY
.....

DON'T BE GIVIN' US THAT SHIT!
YOU AIN'T NO ALL-STAR!
YOU FUCKIN' LIAR!
NO, I'M SERIOUS!
GYA HA HA HA HA!
IT WAS LIKE THE BALL WAS SITTING IN MIDAIR.

THE HELL YOU WOULD!
GYA HA HA HA!
YEAH? I WOULD'VE GOTTEN ALL THE WAY HOME ON THAT!
DAMN, YOU GUYS, I THINK I MIGHT BE A GENIUS!



WHEWWW.

CAN'T LET THIS RALLY STOP AT ME.

TIE GAME, TWO OUTS, RUNNER ON FIRST

DON'T WANNA BREAK THE CHAIN...
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE LAST MAN...

The catchphrase/stance of comedian Ken Shimura's Baka Tono character

NICE AND SHORT! CHOKE UP ON THE BAT AND AIM FOR CONTACT!
LOOK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO AIM FOR THE BIG HIT!

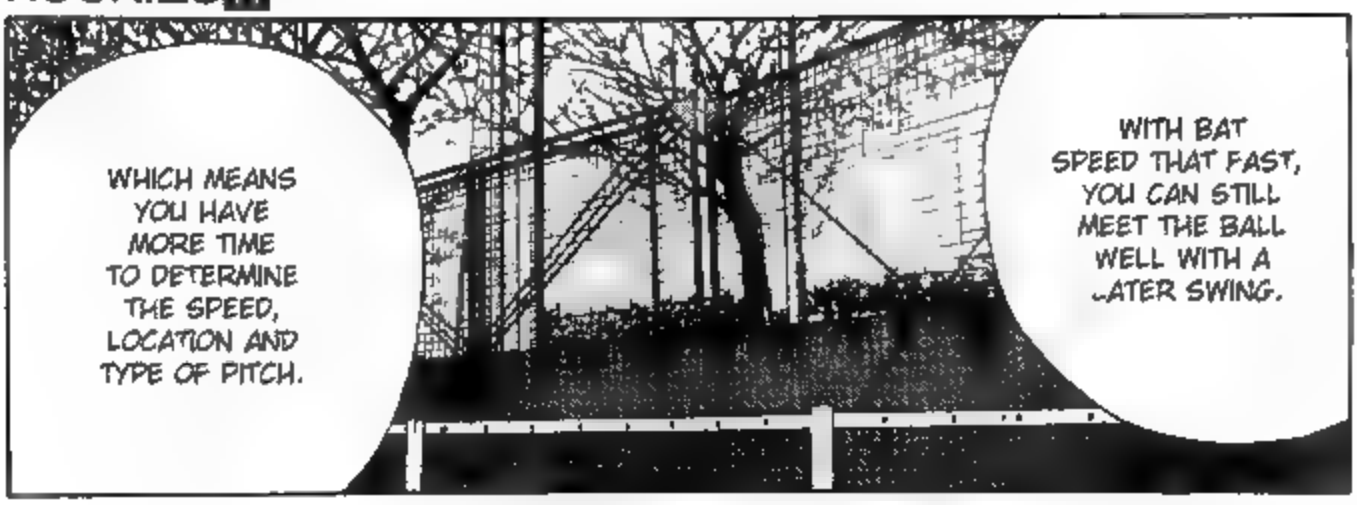
AND WE WANT TO GO AHEAD HERE, DAMMIT!
THAT AIN'T HOW YOU DO AIIIN! YOU'RE COPYING SUSUMU MIYAO, INSTEAD!
DON'T YOU PILE ANY MORE PRESSURE ON HIM!
SHOOT THE MOON, DUDE!

WHAAAAT?!
RIGHT, SWING BIG
NO, SWING BIG.

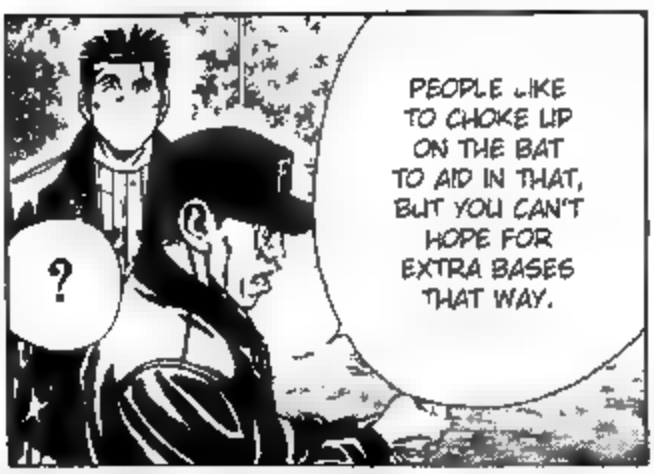
SHINJO'S SWING CUTS THROUGH THE WIND
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD IT?

BUT WITH A SHORT SWING, HE WON'T BE LATE, AND CAN FIGHT OFF BREAKING BALLS. .
SHINJO CAN KEEP UP WITH ANY PITCH HE THROWS.

THE WIND...?


WHICH MEANS YOU HAVE MORE TIME TO DETERMINE THE SPEED, LOCATION AND TYPE OF PITCH.
WITH BAT SPEED THAT FAST, YOU CAN STILL MEET THE BALL WELL WITH A LATER SWING.

YET SHINJO HAS THIS INCREDIBLE BAT SPEED


?
PEOPLE LIKE TO CHOKE UP ON THE BAT TO AID IN THAT, BUT YOU CAN'T HOPE FOR EXTRA BASES THAT WAY.

THIS IS ANOTHER OF YOUR LIGHTS OF THE DIAMOND, RIGHT HERE.
KAWATO-KUN.

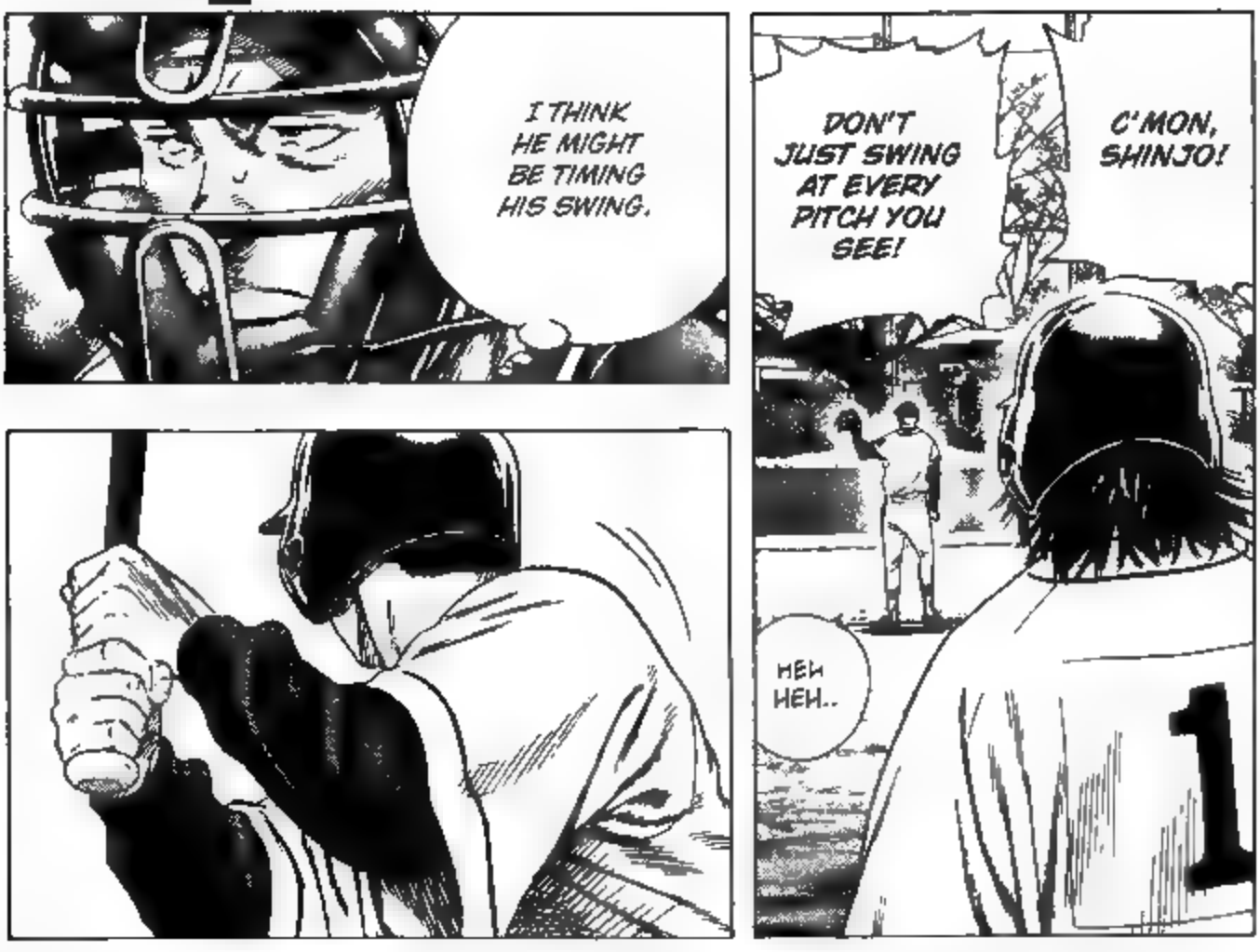
YES.
THAT'S THE MUSCLE OF A HOME RUN HITTER.
AIM BIG, SHINJO! CRUSH IT!
TWO-RUN BOMB, RIGHT HERE!
KEH.
HE AIN'T EVEN GONNA THROW A STRIKE, SO JUST WATCH THE BALL FIRST!
PLAY BALL!

AND FROM THE TIME THE SWING STARTS TO THE IMPACT OF BAT ON BALL,
AFTER THE PITCH IS THROWN, THE BRAIN RECOGNIZES THE BALL AND DECIDES WHETHER TO SWING.
YOU HAVE 0.47 SECONDS, WITH A 140 KM/H FASTBALL.
SHINJO CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF THOSE 0.47 SECONDS.
T-THAT ONE'S FAST!

BUT IT'S WILD!

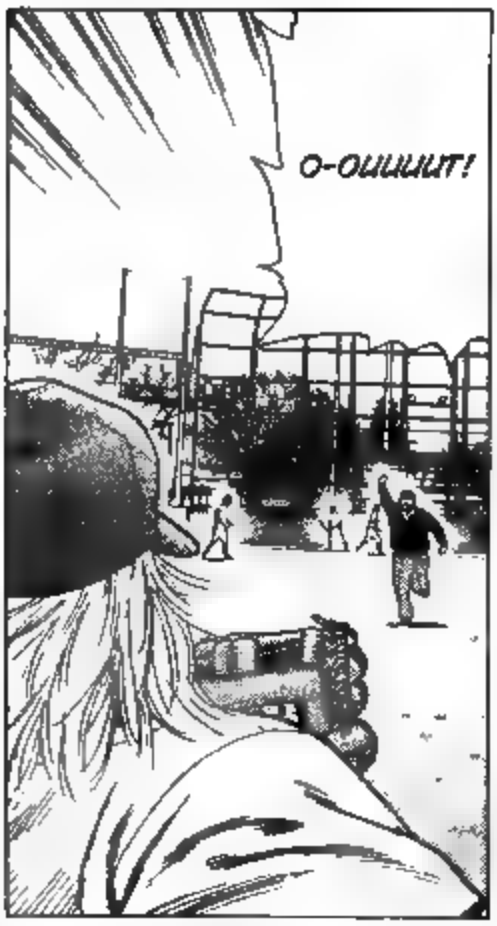
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, MAN?!
HOW DO YOU SWING AT A SHITTY PITCH LIKE THAT?!
STRIIIIIKE!
WHAAAAT?!!
HUH..?
D-DID YOU SEE THAT SWING?
THAT WAS RIDICULOUSLY QUICK OVER THE PLATE.
GODDAMN, WHAT A SWING...
PERFECT.
MAN, HE'S GETTIN' ALL WILD AGAIN.
PSHH, IDIOT.

Ft
HIT
STRIIIIKE!


I THINK HE MIGHT BE TIMING HIS SWING.
DON'T JUST SWING AT EVERY PITCH YOU SEE!
C'MON, SHINJO!
HEH HEH..
1

M
NO, WAIT A SECOND!
FORGET ABOUT THIS AT-BAT, BUT SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HIS POSSIBILITIES WILL BLOOM...
BUT HE STILL NEEDS EXPERIENCE.

5
ZE ◎ ALLOY
GOSA-GT


O-OUUUUT!

KAHA
HA...

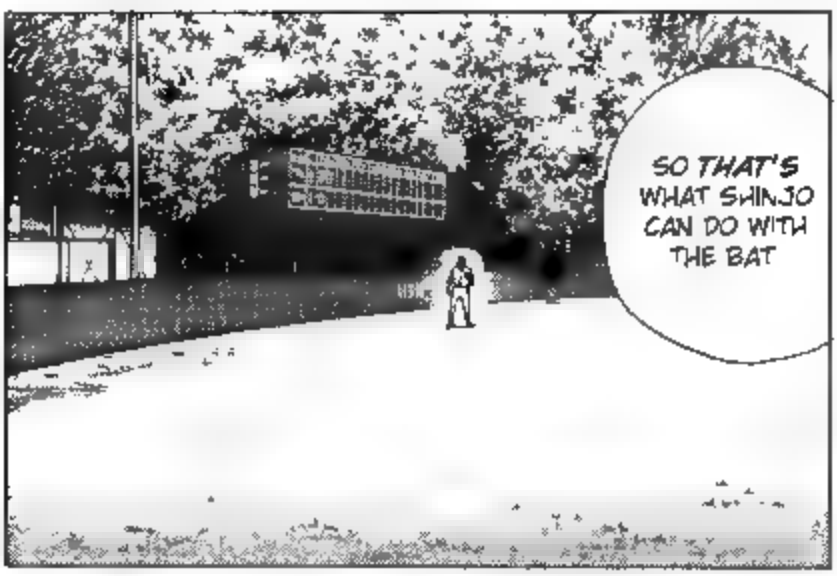
WHOAAAAAAAA!

LINE DRIVE...
A O-ONE-HUNDRED-FIFTEEN METER...

WHOAA.
WH...

Vol.105 Three-Month Special

WHAT THE...
WHA...
WHA...


SO THAT'S WHAT SHINJO CAN DO WITH THE BAT

T-THAT'S IT...
S...

It

W-WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT...?
1
.....
HEY.
SHIT.
DID YOU JUST START THREE MONTHS AGO, TOO?
TWO MONTHS.
NAW...

I FAILED TO KEEP THE RALLY GOING.
SORRY.
Y-YOU CRAZY-ASS..

GYAHAHAHA! IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL FAILING TO KEEP A RALLY?!
JESUS, THAT WAS SOME HIT!
GYA HA HA HA HA HA!

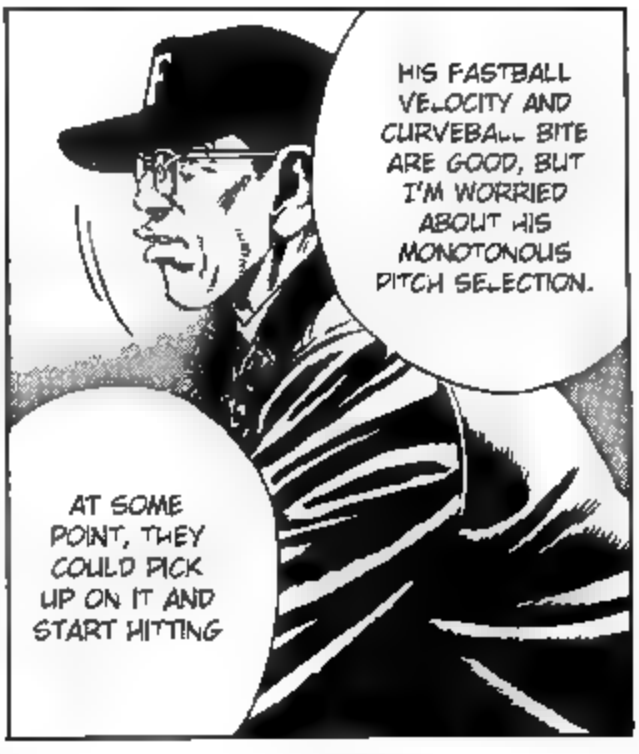
SON OF A BITCH FREAK OF NATURE!
AAH!

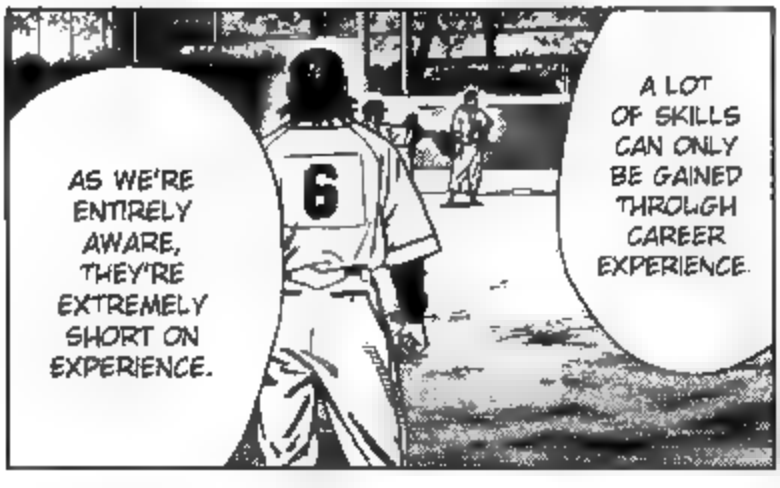
PAH, THIS IS PATHETIC.
THESE GUYS DON'T KNOW SHIT
WE AIN'T HERE TO GIVE THEM BATTING PRACTICE.

M
AND ANIYA'S THROWING FASTER THAN YOU.
!
M
HMPH. IDIOTS.
WE DON'T NEED YOU FOOLS ANYMORE. I'M HERE TO SHOW EVERYONE HOW TO PLAY THE GAME.
NOTHING, MAN.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING BACK MWERE?!
HUH?

NICE PITCH, MAN!
YEAAAAH!!
STRIKE THREE!
BATTER OUT!
THAT CURVE-BALL
GRR...
I'M STARTING TO THINK WE REALLY COULD WIN THIS GAME BY A LOT
HA, HA HA... THIS PITCHING, THIS OFFENSE
YES! NICE CURVE, VERY NICE!
ONE OUT!
.....
NO...

AND IT'S TRUE THAT INCLUDING LUCKY HITS, WE HAVE EXPLOSIVE POTENTIAL ON OFFENSE
THE PROBLEM IS CAREER EXPERIENCE.


HIS FASTBALL VELOCITY AND CURVEBALL BITE ARE GOOD, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIS MONOTONOUS PITCH SELECTION.
AT SOME POINT, THEY COULD PICK UP ON IT AND START HITTING


A LOT OF SKILLS CAN ONLY BE GAINED THROUGH CAREER EXPERIENCE.
AS WE'RE ENTIRELY AWARE, THEY'RE EXTREMELY SHORT ON EXPERIENCE.

CAREER ...?
YES.

BASEBALL IS A HARD GAME.

THE SKILLS THEY'VE GAINED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR TALENT ARE ONLY THREE MONTHS OLD.
THAT'S ALL.

MAN, YOU'RE LUCKY IT WAS MY LEFT HAND THAT HIT YOUR TOOTH.
SHIT THAT HURT..
TOKYO
SOMEONE GET ME A FIRST AID KIT
DAMN.
...THE FUCK, MAN...
I JUST TOLD YOU TO GET ME SOME FIRST AID!
WHAT AN IDIOT.
MAN, SHUT UP.
PLAY BALL!

HE HASN'T SEEN IT FOR HIMSELF, YET.
WE'RE GOIN' FIRST PITCH CURVE-BALL.
BUT IN THIS CASE...
MAN, HE'S CALLIN' SOME DUMB PITCHES.
THIS GUY, HUH?
TOKYO
CURVE, IT IS!

DON'T WORRY, HE HIT IT OFF THE END OF THE BAT!
OKADA!

WHA...

G-GOT IT.

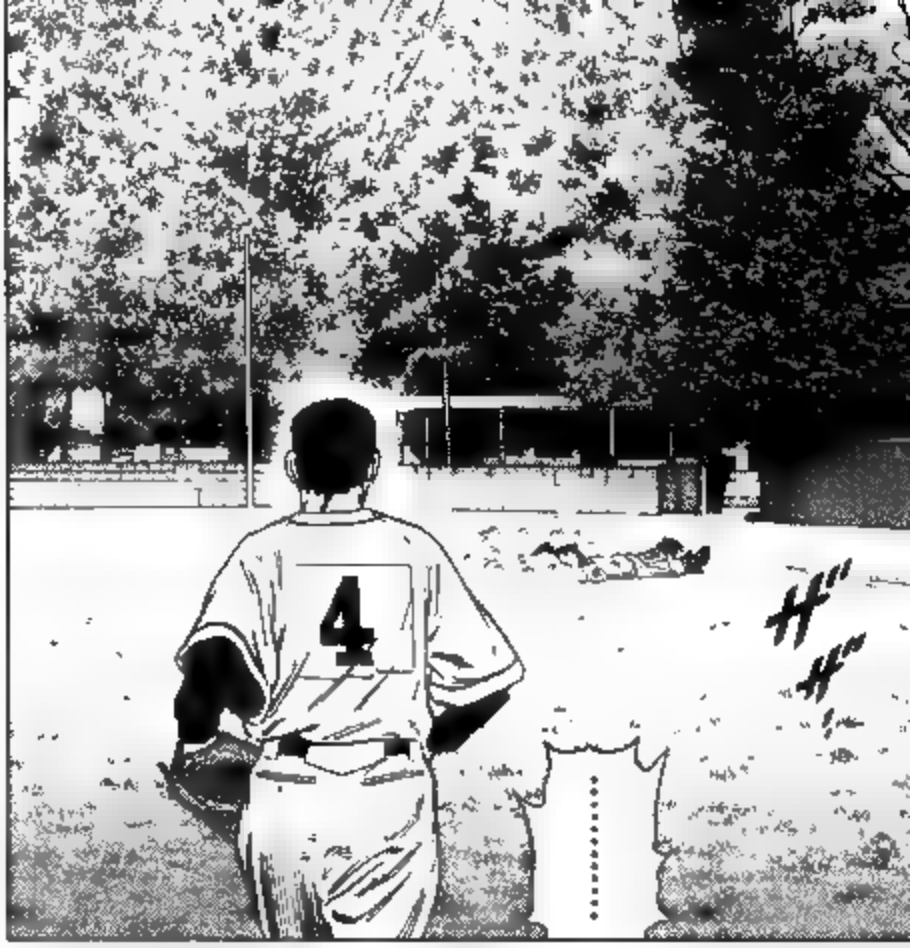
HMM.
UHH...

WOW... JAMMED HIM, AND IT STILL GOES OUT DEEP TO RIGHT...

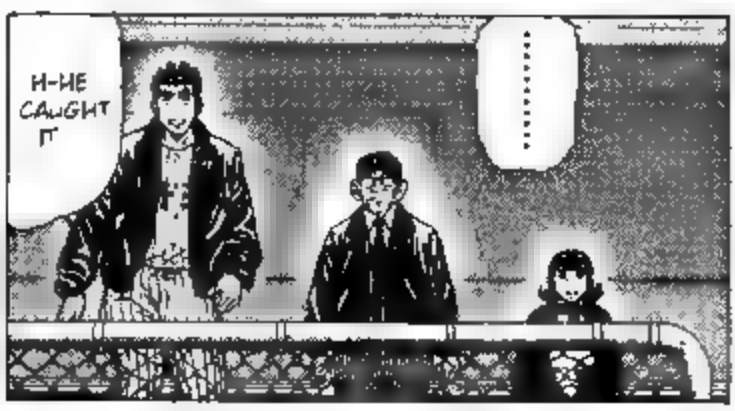
.....

MIKOSHIBA, GET READY FOR A CUTOFF! HIYAMA, COVER SECOND BASE!
SEKIKAWA, GIVE HIM ADVICE! HE MIGHT NOT GET IT!
WHA?
.....
IT'S DROPPING...
WHOA!
WOW, IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN NOW.
HUH?
CRAP!
OH SHIT, RIGHT!
AAGH!
MOVE UP! UH, I MEAN.
OKADA!
UMM, UMMM...

YIKES..
OUUUUUT!
THAT WAS CLOSE.


4

YOU SEE? THIS IS WHERE LACK OF EXPERIENCE HURTS
B-BUT OKADA CAUGHT THAT BALL


H-HE CAUGHT IT

HE COULDN'T CATCH THEM LAST TIME!
YES, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO CATCH THOSE...

AND EVERY MINUTE AND SECOND OF TIME FROM HERE ON OUT IS MORE EXPERIENCE
THREE SHORT MONTHS, BUT THEY'VE BEEN VALUABLE ONES
FIRST WAKANA, THEN SHINJO...
AND NEVER STOP.
OH, THEY'LL GET BETTER.
MAN, THERE'S A LOT OF SHIT TO REMEMBER.
GOTTA COVER SECOND ON THAT PLAY...
.....
CRAP... I HAVEN'T BEEN STUDYING IT AT ALL...
SOME-THING ABOUT BACKING UP OTHER GUYS...
SOMETHING TELLS ME THERE WAS A BUNCH OF STUFF ABOUT THAT IN THE VICE PRINCIPAL'S MANUAL...

COME ON, YOU GUYS!
!?

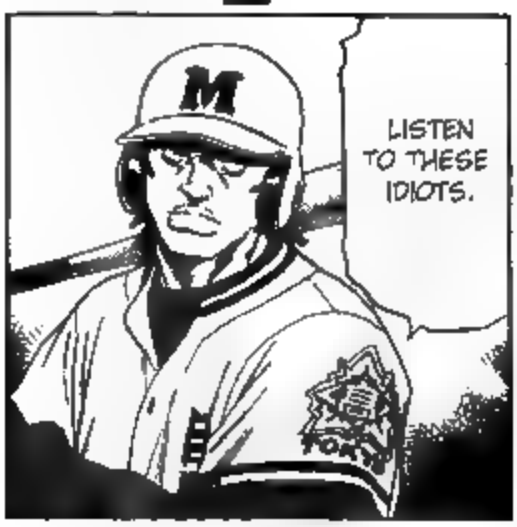
BACK-UP...
WHAT AM I DOING...?

I SHOULD READ THAT MANUAL CLOSER...

DON'T POINT THAT SHIT OUT TO US..
UGH...

YOU'RE NOT STUDYING ENOUGH, DON'TCHA KNOW!
YOU SUCK AT THE GAME! THAT'S WHAT STUDYING HELPS MAKE UP FOR!

SHUT UUUUP!
A GENIUS DOESN'T NEED TO STUDY!
GO HOME, YOU RETARD!!
WHAAAT?!


LISTEN TO THESE IDIOTS.

YAAAAH!

ALL RIGHT, COME ON!
PLAY BALL!
LET ME HEAR SOME VOICES!
YOU CAN'T TOUCH THIS, SUCKAS!

FAST-BAAAALL!!

DON'T TELL HIM!!

SHORT-STOP!
RAAAHHH!!
AAAGH...
NNG...

NYAAH!
HRRNG!
THE THROW'S LOW!

……
M
カキーン!!
OUUUUUT!!

11 *The Aesthetic of Man (End)*

■ジャンプ・コミックス

ROOKIES

11男の美学

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